Easter Sunday is an invitation to rid ourselves of familiarity and approach the celebration with wonder and awe. We as a Church celebrate Easter every Sunday, and anything you do that often can become matter-of-fact. But as we listen to the Scriptures of this Easter Sunday, we encounter the faithful women and men who were filled with the reaction of “Surprise!” One thing was for certain, no one expected the Resurrection. After Jesus was executed, the disciples, panic-stricken, fled in all directions to hide. On that first Easter morning the women came to the tomb to do “the womanly thing” in their culture at the time. They came with no expectation. Their conversation on the way to Jesus’ tomb was “who will roll the stone from the door for us”… because it was a very large stone.

When the women ran to the disciples with their unbelievable news, the disciples found it unbelievable too. As we read the account of the Resurrection, it is documented that there were many witnesses, not two or three but several hundred who claimed to have seen and talked to Jesus after His death. These witnesses were farmers, fishermen and housekeepers. They knew that dead people usually stayed dead, and were surprised to encounter the Risen Lord.

The recalling of the first Easter may have become commonplace, but we are His witness in the world today. We are the Intentional Disciples of this time and age who choose to invite others to know Him and follow Him.

How do we have those moments when we experience the Risen Lord in our lives? Much of our daily conversations are about who will move the stones that seem to seal our tombs. Much of our emotional and mental energy is used up over worrying about obstacles and burdens, the large stones, that seem to make life hopeless. We often lose the vision that God is at work in every situation, bringing life out of our different times.

I invite you to come and spend time with the Risen Lord over the Three Great Days of Lent – to spend time with the Risen One as we remember on Holy Thursday evening that Jesus came to serve. He washes the feet of his friends as a servant would, breaks bread and blesses a cup of wine which becomes food for their journey. On Good Friday we remember how His servanthood demanded His life. He offers Himself as the Lamb who takes all sin away. On Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday we recall that He rose from the tomb. On Holy Saturday/Easter Sunday we renew our baptismal promise to be His disciples and to bring others to be His disciples.

Jesus has Risen from the Dead. You and I have met Him as He rolls away the stones in our everyday lives.

Christ is Risen…… Alleluia!
Palm Sunday
April 13th – 14th, 2019
April 13th at 5:00 pm
April 14th at 8:30 am
10:30 am  12:30 pm

Mass of Chrism – April 15th
7:00 pm - St. Peter’s Cathedral

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

Holy Thursday – April 18th
Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 7:30 pm
8:30 pm - Adoration of the Eucharist until
11:00 pm
Night Prayer at 11:00 pm

Good Friday – April 19th
10:00 am - Stations of the Cross Led by the Youth
3:00 pm - Divine Liturgy

Holy Saturday – April 20th
10:00 am - Blessing of Easter Food
(Tradition of many Europeans)

Easter Vigil – April 20th
7:30 pm
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 21st
8:30 am  10:30 am  12:30 pm
(at the 10:30 am 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, April 10th
(All Day Confessions)
8:30 am-8:00 pm
Friday, April 12th
10:00 am-11:00 am     3:00 pm-4:00 pm
7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Tuesday, April 16th
10:00 am-11:00 am     3:00 pm-4:00 pm
7:00 pm-8:00 pm
(No confessions heard during the Sacred Triduum)

Our Newsletter Team:
Carmen Gicante, Keith Rodrigues, Angela Townend,
Carolyn Miranda, Louanne Henderson, Emma Coelho,
Stephen Schlueter, Giacomo Barone

Newsletter Design:
Joyce Mbika Nfor & Elise Nguyen

Christ is Risen!
Marinette Laureano is a parishioner at St. Michael’s and a member of the Ministry of Greeters. You will find her at the doors of the church smiling and welcoming parishioners and visitors as they arrive for the 10:30 am Sunday Mass. The following is an interview with Marinette that took place on Oct 23rd as we met over coffee.

How did you become involved in this Ministry?

Marinette has been involved in many church ministries since she returned to her faith over five years ago. At that time, she began to reflect on which “time, talents and treasures” she could offer to God in the service of others. She decided to sign up as an usher, a role that expanded and became the ministry of greeters.

What do you enjoy most about your role as a greeter at St. Michael’s?

Seeing families attending mass together and becoming more familiar with them over time is especially rewarding to Marinette. She also enjoys when parishioners “return the greeting” with a smile or hello. She enjoys conversing with the children and offered that getting hugs from the little ones as they enter the church is a special gift in this role. She marvels at watching children grow over time. Marinette also noted that the greeter at each mass finds a family or individuals to carry the offertory gifts and this is yet another opportunity to speak with and get to know even more parishioners.

Have you been involved in any other ministries at St. Michael’s?

Marinette is a very busy parishioner. In addition to her roles as usher/greeter, she has served on parish council, the social committee, the CWL, and is a ‘spare’ eucharistic minister. She is a member of the SMUGLEE’s ukulele group at St. Michael’s, and initiated the Yarning with Love group.

Has anything surprised you about the experience of being a greeter?

The need to allow some parishioners time to warm up to greeters was an opportunity for Marinette to demonstrate patience. She does not take it personally when some parish members are uncertain how to respond to her smile and friendly hello but over time it seems that families and their children have become accustomed to her greeting them before Mass; and it does not go unnoticed when she is absent.

Have there been any unexpected benefits you’ve experienced as a greeter?

The opportunity to build connections to many parishioners has been a wonderful benefit noted by Marinette. She is quite familiar with other ministries and because she is reaching out and greeting members of St. Michael’s, when they have a question, perhaps about another ministry, she is sometimes the one they turn to for information. She credits the consistency of her presence over time to this level of comfort that prompts others to seek her out when they need information.

What would you say to someone who is considering joining this Ministry?

While some people likely find it easier to stand at the church doors and greet people as they head to Mass, Marinette feels this role can still be carried out by those who are less extroverted. She believes there are many aspects to being a greeter that many parishioners can manage. It’s not a significant time commitment and she feels it’s a great opportunity to grow, to “lift up” to God, to give of one’s self in service to others, even if at first it is difficult or even a little scary. As for age limit? None, says Marinette. Any age is fine to be a greeter and families are welcomed to greet as one group.

Has this role helped you feel more connected to the parish and parish life?

Marinette feels this role as a greeter has been a wonderful opportunity to create a more welcoming environment for parishioners. It has also blessed her with a greater connection to her own faith. While she has branched out to join several other ministries, it is evident that she views this role as very special indeed. As our interview drew to a close, Marinette with her bright smile shared that 1 Peter 4:8-10 is a piece of scripture that she holds dear to heart. These words of St. Peter are ones of encouragement and remind her of the importance of serving God by using all the gifts with which He has graciously given us.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.
Karen and Gil Owens are a dynamic couple who live out their faith joyfully at St. Michael’s Parish. This busy pair joined our Parish in 2006, after many years at St. Martin Parish. Gil attended St. Martin since childhood, acting as an altar server and then as a youth representative on the first parish council. Karen and Gil enjoyed careers in education and this is where they met. Karen was raised Anglican and joined the Catholic Church prior to their wedding. She then made the move to a position with the Catholic school board. It was here, in our Catholic schools, that she gained a real appreciation for the faith witness that teachers share daily and naturally with their students. She also used the opportunity to deepen her own understanding of our faith through the eyes of the children. During these years Karen and Gil were dedicated and active parishioners, serving as Eucharistic Ministers.

Once established at St. Michael’s, Karen and Gil really got involved, sharing their time and talents. In so doing, they have felt a real appreciation for the hard work of the dedicated teams at our parish. Both are Eucharistic Ministers and Karen has served two terms as chair of the Parish Council. Gil chaired the Finance Committee during the important years leading up to the Give to Grow campaign. He is so grateful for the hard work of the team that spearheaded such a successful initiative, which has set our parish up for long-term financial health. Karen joined in the planning and fundraising aspect of this project and is glad of the opportunity to have met so many wonderful parishioners, who enriched her own faith through their passion and the importance of St. Michael’s in their lives.

A real highlight in their volunteer experience was the St. Michael’s 100th Anniversary celebration in 2010-11 Karen chaired this committee which required two years of planning, historical research and discussion before the highly successful implementation of 10 months of anniversary celebrations. She thoroughly enjoyed the excitement of the various events and reaching out to people to become involved.

Karen and Gil are now dedicated to the Social Committee, whose inception was a natural outflow of the anniversary events. The Social Committee was formed to maintain the community momentum, through monthly events designed to bring parishioners together. The team consists of about twelve people, chaired by Karen, and spouses are also regular participants. Karen and Gil have formed true friendships with this group of like-minded, active parishioners.

Karen has recently expanded her interests by taking on the chairing role in the annual November bazaar, now entering its fifth year. She is a true leader, able to articulate a vision and bring people on board who find a place to share their talents. The bazaar grows more successful with each year.

Karen and Gil’s enthusiasm for our parish and the activities which they lead is infectious. They derive much joy and satisfaction from witnessing, and being part of, the growth of community amongst members of the parish family. They are grateful and humbled by the support they have received from parishioners they have come to know. They are excited when initiatives grow, when people respond to an invitation to share their talents, and when positive relationships are formed and nurtured. Karen and Gil are humble, selfless leaders who have done much to make St. Michael’s Parish a vibrant, welcoming Eucharistic community. Their leadership and excitement are a beacon to all parishioners who want to participate in the growth of our parish community.
For those of you familiar with Bishop Barron, you will know that he is an American prelate of the Roman Catholic Church currently serving as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He developed the well-known Catholic ministerial organization Word on Fire (www.wordonfire.org) and is a notable author on the topics of theology and spiritual life. His latest film and study series is entitled “The Mass”, a six-part exploration of the Mass and the “why” behind many of its parts.

This past February, St. Michael’s Parish began a seven-week study program of The Mass, providing an opportunity for parishioners to gather together to watch the series and engage in discussions of Bishop Barron’s analysis of the Mass and its many parts. The series essentially focuses on the two parts of the Mass: firstly, a study of the Liturgy of the Word, and secondly, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the part of the Mass that corresponds to the words and actions of Christ at the Last Supper.

As Bishop Barron reminds us in this program, the Second Vatican Council referred to the liturgy as the “source and summit of the Christian life” and a major conclusion of the Council Fathers at that time was a need for “a fuller, more conscious, and more active participation in the liturgy on the part of Catholics.” However, and this may have in part led to the bishop’s desire to create this series, this view presumed an understanding of the Mass and a level of participation or attendance that in reality did not exist:

“That the Vatican II dream of a revived liturgical awareness and practice has, at least in the West, largely remained unrealized goes without saying. In the years following the Council, Mass attendance in Europe, North America, and Australia has plummeted. The numbers of Catholics who regularly attend Mass in those parts of the world hover between 10 and 25 percent. Therefore, it is not surprising that an extraordinary number of those who self-identify as Catholics in the West have very little idea what the Mass actually is.”

- Bishop Robert Barron

In his analysis of the many parts of the Mass, Bishop Barron uses insight, liturgical knowledge, Church history, doctrine and of course, his fondness for humour to help us better understand the rich meaning and symbolism behind its many parts. For example, he offers that “the Mass begins before it begins” when referencing the entrance hymn. No, he argues, this is not just “travelling music” for our priest as he enters but rather as we sing together, our many voices “become one” so that how we gather as a community is reflected in this harmony of voices. In another example, Bishop Barron explains that the responsorial psalm is not just a break between the readings. He explains that as we have just heard the Word of God in the first reading it is appropriate that we respond with emotion and praise and essentially “speak back” to God with the beautiful words of the psalms.

With a hope that his series may spark a better understanding of the Mass for those who regularly attend, and perhaps inspire those who have been staying away from the Church, to return. When asked what he would say to those who are contemplating a return to the Church, Bishop Barron offers one piece of advice: “just go”. The Mass, he insists, is and always has been important to our faith journey, a “most beautiful encounter between friends...an anticipation of the play that will be our permanent preoccupation in heaven.” While Vatican II certainly led to many liturgical changes and modernization of some of our practices as Catholics, the spirit of the Mass, as Bishop Barron explains in this study series, has remained steadfast and rightfully focused on inviting us to join together in this mystical act of praise for Christ.
“We don’t live in a neutral culture” – that was the message from Dr. Edward Sri, prominent Catholic author and guest speaker at the Men of Faith Conference this past January, held at St. Michael’s church in London, Ontario. Almost 400 men participated in the conference, many who had travelled through snowy conditions to attend, some from as far away as Kingston. To those in attendance Dr. Sri explained how the mainstream culture presents a biased worldview, one that often goes against that which Jesus teaches us about love and life. Through a series of three talks, Dr. Sri outlined a way to understand the teachings of the Catholic Church and to lead a life of faith in the world today.

Registration was a flurry of activity as men arrived throughout the morning, excited to meet up with friends and family, and eager to hear what Dr. Sri had to say. The day began with the Rosary, followed by Mass celebrated by Fr. Murray Sample, pastor of St. Michael’s. By that time, many participants had already arrived and were seated in the pews. The sight of so many men singing and praying in church on a Saturday morning was enough to fill anyone with excitement for the future of the Church.

The Men of Faith Conference is organized by Family Foundations Institute and has the mission of providing a venue for men to come together to learn about the Catholic faith, grow in their own faith, and share fellowship with other like-minded men. The conference is made possible through the generous support of sponsors, including: the Catholic Central High School boys’ choir, Harry Lamb from Sutton Group Realty, Caradoc Dentistry, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, the Knights of Columbus, Donahue Funeral Home, and St. Michael’s parish. The contributions of music, hot food for lunch, snacks and coffee, space, funding, and volunteers are crucial to the overwhelming and continued success of the conference.

Dr. Sri was logical and clear while presenting his arguments and explanations. When refuting moral relativism as one of the most relevant challenges to living a life a faith today, he explained the various ways in which objective truth and reality are impossible to ignore and must exist for everyone no matter their belief system. Perhaps his most challenging message was for Catholics to actually “put themselves out there” to our family and friends. To live out our faith in the world today means precisely that: to take practical steps to create a relationship with Jesus as the centre of our lives. These practical steps include items such as daily prayer routines, Catholic books, nurturing friendships, and regular sacraments. Indeed, the sacraments played a large part in the spirituality of the conference, at Mass, but also during Benediction and Adoration with Fr. Patrick Beneteau, as well as the opportunity for confession. With several priests of the Diocese of London offering to hear confessions, hundreds of men were able to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. All of this was not to spark an aggressive outward sign of faith, but rather to take care of the inward state of being so that any outward actions towards our neighbour would always come from a place of love and never from a place of judgment, fear, or anger.

The final talk of the day was delivered by former surgeon Deacon Dr. Bob McDonald, who spoke on the importance of personal investment and emotions for men. This talk provided an understanding of how masculinity is not all about physical strength, power, and domination as the image of manhood is often communicated today. Developing personal relationships and responding to our emotional qualities is also a big part of what it means to be a man – his talk entitled “Real Men Do Cry” provided an understanding of how caring about someone to the point of emotional surrender is not always a sign of weakness.

The Men of Faith Conference could be seen as a rallying call – one especially relevant for men in Western society today dealing with lukewarm attitudes, ignorance, and misunderstanding – that reminds us that being a man bears the responsibility of masculine identity, of intellectual formation, of love for all, and of ultimately uniting the personal will to the greater good of others and to the Glory of God. These men of faith are encouraged to go home and build up their families, parishes, and the Church.
Men of Faith Conference

by Adam Helmers

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

NEW!

Donohue Funeral Home

Family owned and operated since 1930.
A tradition of care, compassion and professionalism helping facilitate those experiencing the loss of a loved one.

362 Waterloo Street
London, ON N6B 2N6

519-434-2708

website: donohuefuneralhome.ca
Recently I heard someone talk about how we as Catholics may see the Mass as spectators. Yes, I was in shock too. I’ve been there, not engaged, wondering “what’s in it for me?” I’ve also been frustrated with life, struggling just to “get there.” But consider this: imagine being at a sports game and in the moment, to the point of getting out of control. Yes, I’ve been there too. I love hockey. Either your team is winning or losing, (for my Sens, it’s the latter lately), but it’s been a long time since I’ve gotten really fired up. I’ve given up. With all the trades, money deals, rumors and so on, I can’t keep up - plus it’s exhausting!

Do you ever see yourself as a spectator at Mass? When I was a child, my parents would tell me to walk in quietly, sit down quietly and WATCH! That was my upbringing and church experience until I was in grade 11 and stopped attending. Do we really see the Mass as a spectacle? Not as a joke, but as a show? Some Christian gatherings in large mega-churches or stadiums gather for a “worship service”. But is it really worship, or a show, entertainment? Are we really just there as spectators letting the priest and the choir and musicians do everything alone, or is there something else we’re called to do?

Well actually, yes. I discovered this when I was returning to the Church after a long 13-year break, sadly. I was 23 and met a girl (now my wife of 22 years). She was passionate about her faith and living it through her actions: counseling the addicted, feeding and providing resources for the homeless... and her relationship with Jesus was important to her.

I had so many reasons to come to church now. After a series of events, I became more involved in parish life, also attending theology workshops and seminars with the Companion of the Cross in Ottawa. I was wondering, what’s THE reason we go to Mass? I always thought it was what we do. What do I get out of it. Offering my prayers. Receiving communion, that sort of thing. And WATCHING the priest do everything. So why should I go? The answer is worship. If we take a step back and look, what do we find at the heart of every religion? It’s worship. We easily find it in the Old Testament. People would show up at the temple with their unblemished sheep for an offering for their sins, to WORSHIP God. God calls us to WORSHIP HIM. The high priest would then hand you a knife and you would offer your sheep as a sacrifice and the priest would collect the blood and pour it over the altar and that was when the sacrifice was complete. So far, religion leads us to worship. Is that it? Well no. Because, if religion leads us to worship, then what’s the point of worship? A feel good-feeling? An experience?

A big concert? It’s not about us; it’s not about what we feel. Love is what leads us to sacrifice. It should be about offering the sacrifice of the lamb. Worship leads us to Sacrifice. The Sacrifice. At the moment where the priest would pour the blood on the altar, that was it: the sacrifice was done. The same thing happens when the priest holds up the Body and the Blood in the Eucharist at Mass! That’s the moment!

So what we now see is the connection between the Old and New Testaments: “Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with me.’ And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as You will.’” Matthew 26:36-39

What Jesus was doing was offering Himself as the Sacrificial Lamb. Why? Because He LOVES us. And at that particular prayer during Mass and the preparation of the gifts, we too offer Jesus back to God with the ministerial priest. Our worship of God the Father along with our sacrifice back to God is what is crucial. Jesus is clear on how and why to worship. So do we really give Him what He really wants? I know I haven’t. Sometimes I’ve been preoccupied, my mind wandering with kids’ sports, family activities and so on. But that’s not what He wants. He wants us to worship HIM. Ever notice that most prayers are directed to God the Father? Remember back in the garden, Jesus directs His prayer to the Father. I NEVER learned this as a kid even though we had been going to Mass every Sunday well into my late teens, all this time I had only been watching! I never knew
that all of this was done to GLORIFY God the Father.

I also learned that the ministerial priest leads us to worship God, offer his and our sacrifice to God, and is the only one who says the Eucharistic Prayer. Remember that in our baptism we are anointed as priests, prophets and kings. As a kingdom priest, in our daily sacrifices, we offer the Eucharist together with the whole community. That’s why we should join in the hymns, join in the prayers, be part of offering the Eucharist, and not simply be spectators. Have we allowed ourselves to be spectators rather than actually performing our priestly duty in offering the Holy Eucharist, celebrating the Mass together with the ordained priest who presides? To act justly, to love tenderly, to walk humbly with the Lord? As a prophet, to speak God’s words? As a

Kingdom King (or queen for ladies) with faith and the grace of the sacraments, we must bring Christ to our families, towns, and the wider culture. The faithful are sent out from Mass to go and serve Christ wherever life takes them. To be very much in the front lines for Christianity, to the world, to make it holy. Remembering that we are to be the sacrifice ourselves with Jesus.

So my prayer this Lent is that every baptized person will never come to watch another mass again, but come to understand that we are created, called, and crafted to worship.
One of the unique things that takes place at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper celebrated on Holy Thursday is an event that takes place prior to the Mass beginning in full. Three bottles of oil are presented to the parish, brought forward by representatives who attended the Chrism Mass celebrated earlier in Holy Week. Each of the three different oils is blessed by the bishop during the Chrism Mass and each serves a specific purpose. These three bottles can be found in a cabinet near the baptismal font and each bottle is marked with two letters: OS, SC, and OI.

The first bottle, marked with OS, is the Oil of Sanctification also sometimes called the Oil of Catechumens. This oil is a sign of purification and cleansing, and is used to anoint those who are going to be baptized into the Church, as either a child or an adult.

The second bottle, marked with SC, is the Sacred Chrism. This oil is used for consecrating things, or making them holy. Due to its special nature and importance, when it is blessed by the bishop it is mixed with perfume. This oil is used also at baptism to anoint the head of the child. It is also used at confirmation to anoint the foreheads of those being confirmed. It is also used to anoint the hands of a priest and the head of a bishop upon ordination. It also plays a role in the blessing of a church, where it is applied to the four walls, and the consecration of an altar where the top of the altar is covered in this oil.

The third oil, marked with OI, is the Oil of the Infirm or the Oil of the Sick. This oil is used only for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, one of the seven sacraments of the Church and often not well-understood.

The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is sometimes called the “Last Rites” but that is not the proper name for the sacrament. “Last Rites” refers to a number of rites that occur at the end of a person’s life and one among them is the Anointing of the Sick but this sacrament is not meant to be saved only for the last moments of a person’s life.

The sacrament’s main purpose is to be a sign of God’s mercy, love and care for His people. The oil is blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass to show a sign of unity with those who are sick, to remind them that the whole Church is with them, praying for them. The sacrament is for a healing of the soul and body, though it does not typically cause a miraculous healing as sometimes the healing that needs to take place is in soul and mind. The person is prayed over in silence and then the priest anoints their forehead saying, “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit.” He then anoints the person’s palms with oil saying “May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”

There are specific times when the sacrament may be called for. The most commonly recognized is during a person’s last moments, where a healing of mind and soul is called for. However, the sacrament may also be called for during times of serious, life-threatening illness. It may also be used prior to surgery as it calls upon God’s help to guide medical professionals. The Church also teaches that it may be used in cases of mental illness and for those who have reached their later years. It is not, however, meant to be used for a cases of the sniffles or those who are taking on a dangerous job such as a soldier or race car driver. It is meant for those that are truly sick in mind, body or soul. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is a beautiful sacrament that can offer great comfort for those in time of fear or great suffering, and does not need to wait until someone is at death’s door. The sacrament finds its purpose from it’s source in Scripture. St. James in his letter tells us “Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.” If you or a loved one find yourselves threatened by serious illness, call for the priest and let them pray with the whole Church through this sacrament.
The last major capital improvement project to the parish has been successfully completed. The new air handling unit is now reliable and keeping all of our activities comfortable. The new paint and updated audio/visual system looks and sounds wonderful! We are very pleased with the results and happy to be able to catch our breath from the seemingly endless projects. I am sure everyone can agree that even though we have had what seems to be regular disruptions of one form or another over the past four years, the results have been well worth it. The security we have created in our parish home is significant and a true gift to the generations of parishioners who will follow us. You should be so proud. Bless you! Thank you to all of our Archangel and Angel donors, and to every donor who contributed to this incredible campaign.

In reflecting on the progress of the Give to Grow...Foundations for our Future campaign, 2019 marks the wrap-up of the most significant level of pledged donations remaining. If we are able to continue to receive the pledged donations through the rest of this year and the small amount slated for 2020; the debts for all of the work will have been settled. The ability to pay off our capital debt was assisted considerably by the very generous bequest from the estate of a dedicated member of St. Michael’s. What a blessing this act of devotion has been for the work of the church. It is a reflection of the faith of an individual, who insisted that her love of God and her desire to have His Son’s work flourish, continue on even after her death. It was a selfless gift to ensure that St. Michael’s was included in her will.

We will continue to have Give to Grow and Capital Fund envelopes available in the church and your offertory boxes in the future as our hope now will be to switch from a “paying for projects” focus, to a “saving for projects” focus. In an older building and an older rectory, invariably there might be some issues that crop up from time to time. Please continue to support this fund as you see fit and remember that 100% of your donation to the Give to Grow fund will be used for capital work and not for operations. In addition, these donation amounts are not counted as part of the annual diocese assessment.

Once again, we convey our deeply-felt gratitude to each and every supporter of Give to Grow. Your belief in what we have been doing with these projects has made such a difference!
In the opening lines of Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel), His Holiness Pope Francis invites “Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ.”

In keeping with this invitation from the Holy Father, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus has developed a series of programs called Faith in Action. These are basically a personal invitation to Knights and their families to live out the calling of their faith, the call to service of their neighbor and to answer the age-old question, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Here at St. Michael’s, our council will of course continue to support our parish and our community as we have done for several years. Parish breakfasts, the yard sale, and other social activities will go on as usual, and we will, as always, continue to offer our help to the various ministries and charities that we support. You will, however, see our members take on a more faith-based role in the parish.

Our council, under the guidance of our Chaplain, Fr. Murray, has decided to offer a few of these Faith in Action programs to the members of our parish. We will keep you up to date via bulletin and online announcements as well, as we roll these out. Here is a brief list of some of the new activities that we invite all the members of our parish to join in:

**Building the Domestic Church**

You have probably noticed that we have a new kiosk in the narthex, which contains engaging faith-based materials for you. These include tools for catechesis and faith formation, RCIA, continuing education, family ministries, and of course, Knights of Columbus membership. We invite you to take these booklets home and share them with your families. We hope that this will encourage more men, especially young men, from our parish to join our Knights of Columbus council, grow in their faith, and participate fully in our parish activities. If you are over 18 years of age, and want to know how to get involved, please get in touch with me directly or contact the parish office.

**Consecration to the Holy Family**

In March, we gave out prayer cards to the members of the congregation, and Father invited families in our parish to consecrate themselves to the Holy Family and to devote themselves to the ideal model of familial love set by Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

**Family Fully Alive**

During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families” (Address to Families at the Mall of Asia Arena, 2015).

The Family Fully Alive program asks families to invite God into their homes and cultivates each family as a miniature domestic church. To this end, we will share monthly themes, Scripture verses and activities via the parish bulletin and other announcements. Through prayer and reflection, families have the opportunity to grow in holiness together.

**Novena for Life**

We encourage all members of St. Michael’s parish to pray this novena with us. The novena will commence with a Mass, followed by the Rosary, on May 4th, and will end on Sunday May 13th. We will also distribute Roses for Life after the weekend Masses on May 4th and 5th. Thank you for your contributions to the Culture of Life programs that our council supports.
As we approach this Lenten season, we recognize the importance of leading a life of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. To each member of St. Michael’s Parish community, this will look different; however, as Catholics we all follow the discipline to “take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them,” (Matthew 6:1). This season, we shed light on Yana Adkinson, who is the embodiment of this passage, and who has left our pastoral team to explore avenues of her faith in the London District Catholic School Board.

Yana was born in Kazakhstan in an area where the Catholic faith was not prominent. After the Berlin Wall fell, an influx of missionaries fled to the country, which brought a presence of Catholicism to the community. Due to this presence, Yana was able to participate in a Catholic church and made the ultimate commitment to her faith by becoming the only Catholic in her family. As a result of her independence, she was faced with many obstacles that made exploring her relationship with God more difficult than for an average Catholic.

As she began to nurture her relationships with members of her church community, her bishop recognized Yana’s commitment to her faith and sent her to study theology in Austria at the Language and Catechetical Institute. From there, Yana travelled to Ohio to study at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. Yana notes that religion was the only field of study she was interested in and that her commitment to her faith was strengthened by exploring her understanding of Catholicism. This prepared Yana to begin her teaching career at Lamb of God Preparatory School where she specialized in teaching Scripture and social studies. Yana’s unique understanding of her faith was a part of her identity, and she was able to articulate it in a way that children could understand. Ultimately, this has been one of the most important ways Yana has served the Catholic community.

In Steubenville, Yana met her husband Mark and started their family. They have three children, now 10, 12 and 14. She made the ultimate decision to stay home and take care of her family, then went on to work in pastoral ministry as her children grew older. Each of her children attended Catholic schools both in the U.S and in London, Ontario, where Yana and Mark moved to raise their family. Yana continues to help her children grow in their faith and understands that each child has a purpose, and that purpose comes from God.

Yana’s commitment to St. Michael’s Parish community is well-recognized; however, she thanks Father Murray for his influence and guidance in her ministerial work. Watching Father Murray serve parishioners, take on new tasks and maintain a level of balance has helped Yana learn how to juggle all of her responsibilities. Additionally, Father Murray granted Yana a great level of independence by trusting her to make her own decisions in the ministry and try new things. She appreciated this independence as it helped her to grow her commitment to the ministry and to the community.

As Yana is approaching a new step on her faith-filled journey, she reflects on her time here at our parish with a few final words: “Thank you and it was privilege to work and serve this community. I thoroughly enjoyed my four years here and I am grateful to have met so many faith-filled people and witness how they are so passionate and generous with their time and talent. Please keep up the good work serving St. Michael’s Parish. A special thank you to all the volunteers who have helped me over the past four years”.

May God bless your future endeavours, Yana, and reaffirm your passion and commitment to your faith.
“...That all may be one, just as you and I are one, Father,” (John 17:21). This prayer of Jesus is emphasized by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians: “just as the body has many parts, so it is with Christ.” The body incorporates the uniqueness of each member and the uniformity of everyone together. Baptism inserts the Christian into Christ’s resurrected and glorious body, and the Church, the assembly of the baptized, is the manifestation and extension of His body in the world. Therefore, the spiritual gifts and diverse functions do not impair the unity of Christians; rather, they are an example of the Church’s enormous wealth.

In 1740, a Pentecostal movement arose with a revivalist message which included prayers for and with all churches. The International Week of Christian Unity continues to call all churches in the one chorus our Saviour gave us. This harmonizing together shows a united witness to the world which has not yet heard the Good News.

“Each of us seeks to serve Christ in the London area through the gifts and strengths of our denomination. However our differences at times are a barrier to sharing the Gospel as those outside the Church look at the diversity and wonder about our divisions. One way to mitigate that is to witness to our unity in Christ in prayer together. Every year the days between the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter and the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, January 18th-25th, are set aside by the World Council of Churches as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. For 2019 the theme of the week was, “Justice Shall You Pursue and Only Justice,” (Deuteronomy 16:20). In this statement Bishop Linda Nicholls, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, invited London area Christian communities to join together at St. Paul’s Cathedral for a service of word and prayer on January 23rd, 2019. The evening followed a familiar worship pattern by opening with a hymn of praise, prayers of repentance, proclamation of the word from Deuteronomy 16:11-26, responsorial psalm 82:1-8, a reading from Romans 12:1-13, a sung gospel acclamation and the proclamation of the Gospel from Luke 4:14-21. Annette Donovan-Panchaud, Campus Minister at King’s University College, gave the sermon. In part she shared, “Our readings challenge each of us to really examine our lives, our homes, our places of work and our churches to see if we are living in sync with who we are called to be as Christians so that we will be able to present ourselves before the Lord, as we are called to do in today’s reading from Paul to the Romans; as a people who have not conformed to this world. Are we able to resist the temptation to avoid insular looking – a concern only for ourselves both personally, but also for our small communities – religious and otherwise? Can we broaden our vision of justice to encompass all of humanity – regardless of their tradition, faith background or lack of faith at all? Friends, we are all on a journey; let us intentionally walk together, knowing that we do not travel alone for we have been assured that Jesus walks with us. This is our story of justice that leads to the hope that our world desperately needs to hear. We are witnesses to that story. Let us together extend our hands in hospitality to one another and to others and see how the next chapter unfolds.”

Our service of word and prayer continued with a personal and collective commitment to justice, mercy and unity. We are called to pursue justice; God is the one who administers justice. The offering used the call from our God found in Micah 6:8 “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”. We walked humbly by acknowledging our common faith in Christ and exchanged a sign of peace. The Nicene Creed, prayed as one, unified this belief. The prayers of the people were followed by our Lord’s own prayer as He taught it to us. Hymns also unified the congregation and all were able to participate. We were sent forth with a blessing by Bishop Linda and Bishop Ronald Peter Fabbro from the Catholic Diocese of London.

Our evening was enhanced by a time of fellowship; a time to meet one another and come to know we are not so different and that ecumenism begins with dialogue. Our shared Christian story is a story of hope, each community giving witness to one another that we have One Lord. We must not grow discouraged at the seeming slowness of results. There is no need to worry if we are doing something big enough as our teacher, Jesus, healed one person at a time. Ignorance of even the most basic features of Christian belief and history is almost universal. Even among practicing Christians we have a limited awareness of the wealth and diversity of our heritage. We do not know the very different ways in which our brothers and sisters in the faith in other groups look to Jesus and the God about Whom He taught. Christianity is so diverse that rarely can you find a statement universal to all denominations. In our common Nicene Creed we have an anchor that all can adhere to, which is non-changing. Our understanding develops and changes over the years as we continue to shape our surroundings and make a mark on our society.

In 1951 the Central Committee for the World Council of Churches defined “ecumenical” as pertaining to everything that relates to the whole task of the church to bring the Gospel to the whole world. Therefore it covers equally the missionary movement and the movement towards unity. Clearly there are many approaches to ecumenical endeavours and our evening of word, prayer, worship and socializing brought us together in an atmosphere of love and friendship. Our mission as church is to be at the service of all humankind. The Holy Spirit is the great guiding force in directing us in loving service outwards to all the human family, upwards toward God and inward to our communities of faith.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is for all the life of people of faith as we are right now and not as we would wish them to be. Yet we continue to imagine and dream of what can be if we look to the Scriptures for inspiration and realize there was always a struggle to be faithful to the Master who lived the Way. May we follow so closely on the Way that we are covered in His dust? We are endeavouring to be of one mind with Christ and fulfill Jesus’ own prayer, “That they may all be one, Father, as you and I are one.”
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.

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
gball@dol.ca       ext. 306
Deacon Gaston Mabaya, Deacon
gmabaya@dol.ca
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
Donna Thompson

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                        April 14
Holy Thursday                      April 18
Good Friday                        April 19
Holy Saturday                      April 20
Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday         April 20 & April 21
First Communions                   April 27-28 & May 4-5
                                      May 11-12 & May 18-19
Ascension                           May 30
Knights of Columbus Yard Sale      June 1
Pentecost                           June 9
Confirmations                       June 9