



Main Offices & Hours

Main Offices of Blessed Sacrament and St. Agnes Parish Cluster

52 Croydon Street, Chatham, Ontario N7L 1L3

Phone: 519-352-9370, 519-352-9483, Fax 1-866-601-8699

Office Hours

Monday 8:00AM - 12:00PM and 1PM - 5PM

Tuesday - Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM

Main Offices of St. Joseph and St. Ursula Parish Cluster

205 Tweedsmuir Avenue West, Chatham, Ontario N7M 5N8

Phone: 519-352-8530, Fax: 519-352-9680

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Closed each day from 12 - 1pm for lunch



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT

145 Victoria Ave
Chatham, ON N7L 3A7
bsacramentparish@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-9370
Fax: 1-866-601-8699

ST. AGNES

52 Croydon St
Chatham, ON N7L 1L3
stagnes@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-9483
Fax: 1-866-601-8699

ST. JOSEPH

180 Wellington St W
Chatham, ON
stjoseph@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-8530
Fax: 519-352-9680

ST. URSULA

205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
Chatham, ON N7M 5N8
stursula@dol.ca
Phone: 519-352-8530
Fax: 519-352-9680

Contact us at our Parish Offices:

St. Agnes Church 52 Croydon Street

Mon: 8:00 am-12 noon - 1:00-5:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

St. Ursula Church

205 Tweedsmuir Avenue West
Mon-Fri:

8:30 am-12 noon - 1:00-4:30 pm

OR: Visit our website at www.ccfp.dol.ca and our Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/bssasusj>

SUNDAY MASSES

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Saturday 5:00 pm & Sunday 9:00 am

St. Agnes Parish

Sunday 11:00 am

St. Joseph Parish

Sunday 8:00 am and 12 noon

St. Ursula Parish

Sunday at 10:00 am

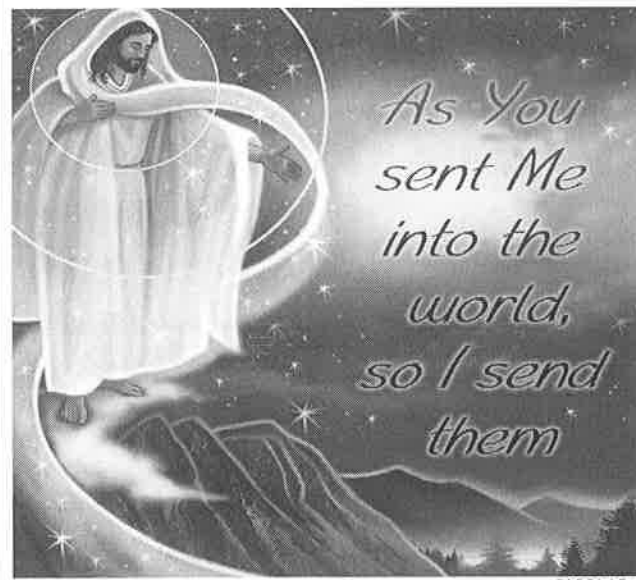
WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday & Thursday 7:00 pm
at St. Ursula

Wednesday 8:00 am
at St. Agnes

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
12 noon at St. Joseph

Friday 8:00 am
at Blessed Sacrament



Go into all the
world and
proclaim the
good news to
the whole
creation.
Mark 16:15

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor ~ Fr. Jim Higgins

519-352-8530 ext 222 ~ jhiggins@dol.ca

Associate Pastor ~ Fr. Don Pumputis

519-352-8530 ext 223 ~ dpumputis@dol.ca

Pastoral Minister ~ Colleen Keane

519-352-8530 ext 225 ~ ckeane@dol.ca

Pastoral Minister ~ Karen Robert

519-352-9483 ext 27 ~ krobert@dol.ca

Parish Catechist ~ Ali Chinnick

519-352-9483 ext 26 ~ achinnick@dol.ca

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Mike McPherson ~ 519-352-9483 ext 25
mmcpherson@dol.ca

Deacon Steve Cartier ~ scartier@dol.ca

Deacon Jerry Lozon ~ jlozon@dol.ca

Deacon Chris Masterson ~ cmasterson@dol.ca

Deacon Morgan Treacy ~ mtreacy@dol.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

Receptionist ~ Michelle Elgie

519-352-9483 ext 22
melgie@dol.ca

Secretary ~ Maureen Foster

519-352-8530 ext 200
mfoster@dol.ca

Financial Secretary ~ Lynda Cadotte

519-352-9483/519-352-9370 ext 21
lcadotte@dol.ca

Bookkeeper ~ Mardie Lessard

519-352-9483 ext 24
mlessard@dol.ca

Data Recorder ~ Cathy Zimmer

519-352-9483 ext 20
czimmer@dol.ca

Blessed Sacrament Plant Supervisor

Brian Elgie ~ 519-359-9051
belgie@dol.ca

St. Agnes Custodian

Andy Willburger
awillburger@dol.ca

St. Joseph Building Superintendent

Mike Bechard
mjbechard@dol.ca

St. Ursula Custodian

Luc Beaupre
lbeaupre@dol.ca

Readings for May 20

Acts 2: 1-11. 1 Corinthians 12a: 3b-7, 12-13.
John 20: 19-23.

MAY 13, 2018

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



What a blessing this week has been for me! First, I thank you for your prayers and the support you have shown me in being able to participate in this Retreat experience. To have the gift of time to pray, reflect on my priesthood, and rest has been the spiritual elixir that I desperately needed right now. I have gained a new impetus to move forward with our work as a Family. Thanks be to God for my brother priests who were a part of the week with me. We strengthened our brotherly bond and have grown in our commitment to serve in a unified and coherent ministry sharing in our bishop's ministry. The second group that will come on retreat (including Father Don) will hopefully be as blessed as we have been this week.

Mother's Day is a special time to pay tribute to the love and sacrifice the mothers give all year. Some of us who have lost their mothers know how much love is given to her children. For those mothers who have passed we pause and give gratitude to Almighty God for all we had received from them. For those mothers with us we give our love and thanks for all you do! You are the heart of the home. Receive the praises of your children.

We are continuing with our First Communions. It has been truly a blessing to see the young children come to this sacred day in their lives. I hope you all will continue to pray for the children and their families.

We will be celebrating Pentecost next weekend. The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red. How about we all wear something red to mark the Feast - the birthday of the Church. It will be something to see all of us marking our joy in the coming of the Holy Spirit.

2018 ANNIVERSARY MASS



The Wedding Anniversary Mass honouring all married couples in our diocese will be held on Sunday, June 3 at 3:00 pm at Good Shepherd Church in Tecumseh with Bishop Fabbro as main celebrant. All married couples are invited to register. Please contact the parish office to fill out a Registration form. The deadline for registering is May 18, 2018.

*With feet to take me where I'd go.
With eyes to see the sunset's glow.
With ears to hear what I would know.*

*Oh, God, forgive me when I whine
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.*

CELEBRATION OF OUR DEAR FATHER LESLIE



On Sunday, May 27 at 2:00 pm at Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church, Father Frank Leslie will lead us in the celebration of the Most Holy Trinity in thanksgiving for 50 years in priestly ministry. His family, friends and a number of his brothers in priesthood will be assisting. As a Sunday Mass, it is open to all parishioners who might want to come out to wish him well. Best wishes only. He insists that any other expression of appreciation be directed to the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Outreach for Hunger, Canadian Food for Children, or any favorite charity of your own. A meet and greet with light refreshments will follow down in the hall.

PORTUGUESE MASS

A Portuguese Mass will take place on Sunday, May 13 (Mother's Day) at St. Joseph Church. They will begin with Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 3 p.m. The celebrant will be Fr. Patrick Beneteau. The usual potluck dinner will take place at the Portuguese Club.



*To Everything there is a Season.....
"a time to be healed".....*

Please pray for the sick of our parish family

Gordon (Jim) Baillargeon, Larry De Smit,
Lisa-Rae Desnoyers, Olivia Formosa,
Andrew Gaiswinkler, Maurice Laevens,
Colette Lavergne, Jerome Lozon,
Frances Magee, Luigi Magliaro, Karl Smith,
Genesio Matteis, Ralph Mays,
Paul McLaughlin, Bernard Myers,
Gerald Myers, Marion Myers, Patrick Myers,
Rose O'Mara, Jeanette Pake, Carlo Rota,
Deb St. Pierre, Genny Wrotkowska
and Lauren Dixon.



God, grant them your peace.

"a time to die...."

Please remember in your prayers all of our deceased relatives and parishioners, especially Real Levesque, Johnny Majek and Joe Van De Hogen.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Tuesday, May 15 ~ 9:30 am - 6:30 pm
St. Ursula Church**



Eucharistic adoration brings many blessings and the hour you spend with Jesus is very precious to Him. When we love someone we want to spend as much time with them as we can. Reserve one hour of your day on May 15 to spend it with Jesus.

**St. Ursula CWL**

Thank you to all the parishioners who sent donations to the garage sale. Special thank you to all who volunteered and worked so diligently which made the sale a **great success!** Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus who came at the close of the sale to clean up and load unsold items on to the St. Vincent de Paul truck (big job)! Total profit \$2,599.70. Thank you!

**Right to Life May Baby Shower**

For the month of May we will have a playpen set up at all parish sites to fill with newborn items for our "Right to Life" baby shower. We accept any newborn to 12 month items, they may be new or almost new items, we also accept baby oil, bottles, diapers, gift cards, etc.

**Congratulations to the newly elected**

London Diocese Catholic Women's League Executive for the years 2018 - 2020.

President - Rebecca McCarrel

President Elect - Theresa Ryan

First Vice President - Mary Bannon

Second Vice President - Mary Lappan

Recording Secretary - Wilhelmina Kole

Corresponding Secretary - Elisabeth Duggan

Treasurer - Cam Cadotte

Standing Committee Chairs - Mary Ann Horne-White, Joan Lobsinger, Denise Masse, Helga Stuermer and Denise Morris.

Chatham-Kent Regional Representative - Mary Clare Latimer

**Baby Bottle Boomerang**

Our Family of Parishes will again be participating in a fundraiser called the Baby Bottle Boomerang. On Mother's Day there will be bottles available to take home and fill with change, cash and/or cheques. Parishioners will keep their bottles and bring them back on Father's Day. When you fill a bottle you will be helping REFUGE pregnancy resource centre provide help, hope and healing to women and men affected by an unplanned pregnancy. REFUGE saves lives of the unborn and changes the lives of women and men right here in our community. REFUGE is a registered division of Right to Life Kent. This fundraiser is sponsored by our CWL's and K of C's.

**13th ANNUAL FR. RICHARD'S MADONNA MISSION**

Indian Dinner

Friday, June 29 in Alvinston

Delicious Indian cuisine-fellowship and fun auction. Free bus sponsored by the two Knights of Columbus and St Joseph Harwich CWL. There are 19 seats left on the bus. Please call Rosalind and Norm at 519-354-0132 for ticket information and to book your seat. Tickets are \$30 each and are also available at both our Family of Parishes offices as well as at St. Mary Blenheim.

"To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world".

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
May 14	SU CWL General Meeting	7 pm	SU in Meeting Room
May 15	Fitness	6:30 pm	Spirit & Life Centre
May 16	Transition team Meeting	6:30 pm	BS in SKR
May 17	SJ SU SVDP Meeting	2:00 pm	Spirit & Life Centre
May 17	Social Justice & Mission Outreach	6:00 pm	BS SKR
May 17	Sunday Reading Reflection Group	7:00 pm	Spirit & Life Centre
May 17	BS K of C Meeting	7:30 pm	BS in MR

Please support our advertisers!

Would you like to become a bulletin advertiser?

For more information contact the parish office at 519-352-8530.



Buying or selling?
Call your friend in Real Estate
Anne Marie Authier,
Sales Rep

519-365-3028

Re/Max Chatham-Kent Realty Inc. Brokerage
Parishioner



You can advertise your business too by calling

519-352-8530.

Please support our advertisers!

<p>Landscaping Irrigation Paving Stones Grounds Keeping Fall Clean ups www.alslawnandgarden.ca</p>	<p>Al's LAWN & GARDEN</p> <p>Sod / Seed Lawn Programs Lawn Cutting Outdoor Fire Places Snow Removal info@alslawnandgarden.ca</p>	<p>DR. RAYMOND P. D'HONDT OPTOMETRIST Member of the Ontario Association of Optometrists Parishioner</p> <p>434 St. George St. S. P.O. Box 84 Dresden, ON N0P 1M0</p> <p>200 King St. W. Chatham, ON N7M 1E5</p>
<p>Smyth Memorials MONUMENTS & MARKERS Bronze Vases, Religious Figures Dawne Milner 7 Maple Leaf Drive 519-354-3930 www.smythmemorials.com</p>	<p>SIMPSON'S FENCE (CHATHAM) LTD.</p> <p>"The Fence People Since 1950" 1030 Richmond Street 519-354-0540</p>	<p>REFUGE Pregnancy Resource Centre 519-352-3611 www.RefugeChatham.ca</p>
<p>ROESCH MEATS and more</p> <p>10910 Northwood Line 519-351-7711 www.rmeats.com</p> <p>Drug & Additive Free Pork Free Run Eggs Produced on our Farm • Aged Beef • Catering • Custom Barbecues All Products 100% Guaranteed Mrs. D's available here</p> <p>Louis & Clara Roesch - Parishioners</p>	<p>RURAL URBAN ROOFING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • steel shingles • fiberglass shingles • 40-75 yr mfr warranties • Owens Corning & Decra Certified Roofer <p>Ed Pumfrey, Parishioner 519-355-9962</p>	<p>St. Ursula Knights of Columbus Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.</p> <p>For information call 519-354-1062 Insurance agent: Herm Vanderheyden call 519-868-4376</p>
<p>HINNEGAN-PESESKI FUNERAL HOME LTD. 156 William Street South 519-352-5120 www.peseski.com <i>Serving the Community since 1904</i> <i>Family Owned and Operated</i> Ron and Dan Peseski - Parishioners</p>	<p>Maple City Retirement Residence 97 McFarlane Avenue, Chatham, Ontario N7L 4V6 Phone: 519-354-7111 Fax: 519-351-5780 info@comfortofliving.com</p>	<p>Chatham Kent WOMEN'S CENTRE</p> <p>We help people live free of domestic violence and abuse. Support Services offered to people throughout Chatham Kent.</p> <p>24-hour Crisis Line 519-354-6360 1-800-265-0598</p>
<p>St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Talk to one of our members to join or contact Roger LeClair at 519-437-1540.</p> <p>The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic Organization founded on the principles of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.</p>	<p>LEEDS CABINETS LTD. CUSTOM FITTINGS "The White Class"</p> <p>Fred Deryck Parishioner 519-352-1788 7 McGregor Place leedscabinets.com</p>	<p>McKinlay Funeral Homes Ltd.</p> <p>459 St. Clair Street Chatham 519-351-2040 www.mckinlayfuneralhome.com</p> <p>BEST WINNER 2017</p>
<p>ROYAL LEPAGE</p> <p>Buying or selling? Call 519-350-1615 Free consultation with no obligation. Serving Chatham-Kent since 1980. David Smith Sales Representative Parishioner</p> <p>Peifer Realty Brokerage Independently Owned and Operated</p>	<p>A CUT ABOVE FAMILY HAIR CARE</p> <p>835 Queen Street South 519-436-2433 Hours: Mon - Fri 9 - 9 and Sat 9 - 4 Parishioner</p>	<p>Habitat for Humanity® ReStore</p> <p>Donate your new and gently used furniture, building materials and appliances and help us build homes for families in Chatham-Kent.</p> <p>566 Riverview Drive 519-352-4440</p>
<p>PREFERRED Building Products Ltd.</p> <p>Roofing * Eavestroughing Siding * Windows * Doors Vinyl Decking & Fencing Spruce & P.T. Lumber Fusion stone * Drywall 519-354-4845 info@preferredbp.com 11 McGregor Place</p>	<p>FIRST CHOICE BUILDING RESTORATION</p> <p>FIRE WIND MOLD WATER</p> <p>Brian Weber 519-352-8900 www.firstchoicebuildingrenovations.com</p> <p>Our Lady of Beaurain Council #1412 Blessed Sacrament Knights of Columbus Meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm For information call 519-360-7814 Insurance agent: Herm Vanderheyden call 519-868-4376</p>	<p>AR All-Risks Insurance — BROCKERS LIMITED</p> <p>HOME / AUTO / LIFE / BENEFITS / COMMERCIAL</p> <p>Jeff Comiskey Parishioner 519-401-9504 jcomiskey@all-risks.com</p> <p>BEST WINNER 2016</p>

FLOWERS ON THE TABERNACLE

The flowers on the tabernacle today at Blessed Sacrament Church are placed there to the glory of God by John Boogaart in memory of Mary Boogaart.



The flowers on the tabernacle today at St. Agnes Church are placed there to the glory of God by Joe and Gloria Strik on the occasion of their 53rd Wedding Anniversary.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please keep in your prayers the following diocesan ministers: Deacon Richard Walter; Deacon Jerry Lozon; Sister Elizabeth Mruczek, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Raymond Lawhead; Mrs. Sue Hofgartner, Pastoral Minister; Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, C.S.T.; Rev. William Thompson, O.M.I.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Custodian

25 hours per week

Must be flexible re hours, be a team player
and be able to do physical work

Please send resume to jhiggins@dol.ca

OFFICE CLOSED



Please note the parish offices will be closed
on Wednesday, May 16 from 1 - 2:30 pm for a
staff meeting.

*Life is like a band.
We need not all play the same part,
but we must play in harmony.*

BAPTISMS

Celebrated during Saturday or Sunday Eucharist
Two months notice & preparation is required

MARRIAGE

One year notice & preparation course is required

CONFIRMATION

November 24/25, 2018 at all parishes

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday ~ 7:30 - 7:55 a.m. ~ St. Agnes

Thursday ~ 6 - 6:45 p.m. ~ St. Ursula

Friday ~ 11 - 11:45 a.m. ~ St. Joseph

Saturday ~ 11 a.m. - 12 noon ~ Blessed Sacrament

ADORATION

St. Ursula ~ Third Tuesday of the month

9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Blessed Sacrament ~ First Friday of the month

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes Mass Intentions Week of May 15-18

Tuesday, May 15 ~ 12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph
~ Kay O'Hara ~ Martha Kovar
~ Intentions of Marie-Geanne Couture
~ Anne Dodok

Tuesday, May 15 ~ 7:00 pm ~ St. Ursula
~ Deceased members of St. Ursula CWL
~ Mariano Petrucci ~ Brenda Matteis
~ Intentions of the Stepec Family

Wednesday, May 16 ~ 8:00 am ~ St. Agnes
~ Abel Urbano ~ Anne C. Sexton
~ Sr. Patrick Sloan ~ Victor Ferreira

Wednesday, May 16 ~ 12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph
~ Millie Faraci ~ Robert Palmer
~ Leona Bishop ~ Palmira Neto

Thursday, May 17 ~ 12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph
~ Richard Fortier ~ Special Intentions
~ Laurinda Pereira ~ Mike Beuglet

Thursday, May 17 ~ 7:00 pm ~ St. Ursula
~ Charles Badura ~ Joe Korchnak
~ Doug Gray ~ Elaine Paxton

Friday, May 18 ~ 8:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament
~ Jennifer Jenkins ~ Joseph Studnicka Sr.
~ Mary Boogaart ~ Salvatore Melillo

Friday, May 18 ~ 12:00 noon ~ St. Joseph
~ Charles Lacina Sr. ~ Maurice Haest
~ Loretta Jennings ~ Fr. Dennis Wilhelm

MIGRANT WORKERS MINISTRY



The Migrant Workers Ministry in conjunction with St. Joseph - St. Ursula St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank those who have already donated clothes for the Migrant Workers. We are in need of socks, shaving supplies tooth brushes and tooth paste. These can be dropped off at the Spirit and Life Centre on Friday mornings between 9 am - 12 noon or to the parish office on Tweedsmuir Ave. W.

ST. JOSEPH FUNERAL ALTAR SERVERS

The funeral team at St. Joseph is recruiting new members to Altar Serve at funerals. If you are interested, please contact the parish office at 519-352-8530.

**FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH GARDENS**

Mary Fran & Louis Giroux
in memory of our mothers

Robert Bourgault in memory of
Annette Bourgault (mother)



Vic & Diane Poissant in memory of Judy Dutry

Dorothy & Jim Provost in memory of
Lily Urquhart & Edna Provost

Andrea & Cheryl in memory of Rosabelle Houle

Brian & Shirley Harwood in memory of
Margaret Harwood Studnicka

The Reaume Family in memory of
our mother Evelyn Reaume

Peggy & Mike Hope in memory of Olive Bradley

Roland & Anita in memory of Mrs. Edna Bechard

**FLOWERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY
ST. AGNES CHURCH**

Connie Abel in memory of Hilda Gagner

Kim Oliphant in memory of Erin Booth

Anne Bagnell & Family in memory of
Mrs. Albina Mondo

Ben & Becky Anne Lawton in memory of
Rebecca Jubenville, Evelyn Jubenville & Lela Lawton



NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY

Lord, by your glorious Ascension
you have married earth to heaven,
and prepared a way for the Holy Spirit.

Empower us by that Spirit,
so that, transformed into your image,
we may extend your presence in the world.

Sanctify our families through your abiding
presence and make us gifts to each other
and to the world.

Mary, Temple and Spouse of the Holy Spirit,
pray for us!

PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT (PAD)

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes have a new PAD agreement that includes Sunday Offertory (weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually), Special Collections (New Years, Share Lent, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, St. Peter's Seminary, Priest Pension Fund, Thanksgiving Appeal, Mission Sunday and Christmas) as well as monthly or annual donations to St. Vincent de Paul and Capital Projects.

Your PAD donations will be given to the Parish of your choice. You may access this form on our website: www.ccfp.ca - About - Donate - Direct Deposit Forms or contact either Lynda Cadotte or Mardie Lessard at the office. PAD forms are also available at each church. For those who currently use PAD and would like to make changes, please fill in a new form and attach a VOID cheque and return to the parish office. We are thankful to our parishioners who share so generously of their time, talents and treasures.

KIOSK & FORMED.ORG SPOTLIGHT

St. Paul exhorts us *"Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."* (Rom. 12:2) Formed.org and the Kiosks at all the churches have many quality resources to help us be renewed and transformed disciples of our Lord Jesus.



Check out some of the new book titles at the **Lighthouse Kiosk**, at the rear of each Church. Available titles include: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Heaven by Dr. Peter Kreeft, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Dr. Brant Pitre, Your Questions, God's Answers by Dr. Peter Kreeft.

Not a big reader? Then check out one of the many video resources at www.FORMED.ORG (log in using parish code: **PX3ZJV**). There are 100's of topics to choose from, here are just a few: Marriage and Parenting Resources, How to Live Out Our Discipleship in the Everyday World, Understanding Sexuality and so much more ...

LET'S CLEAR THE AIR

Scented products can aggravate health problems for some people with medical conditions. For health and consideration of other parishioners who attend Mass, please try to refrain from using perfume/ cologne and other scented beauty products. Thank you for your compassion.



CHURCH CHUCKLE

A classmate and I were walking past a poster in our school hallway. It featured a photo of Einstein with the words "Even Einstein Read Books."

My friend was amazed: "I didn't know Einstein's first name was Evan."



DIOCESE OF
LONDON

1070 Waterloo Street
London, Ontario N6A 3Y2
Canada
519-433-0658
Fax: 519-266-4353

13 May 2018

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today, Ascension Sunday, we listen to the passage in the Gospel of Mark in which Jesus commissions his disciples: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation" (Mk 16:15). After he ascends to the Father, his disciples "went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it" (Mk 16:20). Next week is Pentecost Sunday. The whole Church will join in prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we, like the early disciples, will be turned into bold and courageous heralds of God's wondrous deeds.

Four years ago, I established a task force to look into the Future of Pastoral Care in the Faith Communities of the Diocese of London. It proposed a 'Family of Parishes' model. The excellent work done by the task force will help our parishes to be vibrant and active in the Church's mission of evangelization - the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus.

Now that the task force has completed its mandate, I have established a diocesan commission to build on the work that has already been done. The commission will oversee the implementation and development of Families of Parishes that are oriented on our mission of evangelization. It will assist parishes in the realization of the goals of the 'Pastoral Plan for the Diocese of London'. It will help us especially: to enter into a close, personal relationship with Jesus and become intentional disciples (Goal #1), to minister with justice and compassion to the wounded and marginalized (Goal #3), to have vibrant liturgies in our parishes (Goal #4) and to promote continuing formation of pastoral leadership - priests, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers (Goal #5).

The commission will use the different media to communicate, so that we can be more effective in our mission of evangelization. In the weeks ahead, there will be a series of bulletin inserts that will explain the different aspects of this mission.

Our most important task is the commitment of each of us to prayer. I urge you to join together in prayer that we the baptized - you and I - support one another in growing closer to Jesus. Today, as we celebrate the Lord's ascension, I invite you to reflect on Jesus' commission to the first disciples. It is our mission. May we, through our words and deeds, go out and proclaim the Gospel with boldness and courage, inviting others to experience the joy of meeting Jesus. We implore the help of our diocesan Patron, our Blessed Mother under the title of the Immaculate Conception, and ask God to bring to completion the good work he has begun in us (cf. Phil 1:6).

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro
C.S.B. Bishop of London

A Prayer for Mother's Day

*Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.
For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.*

*Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.
For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.*

*Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.
For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.*

*For the women who struggle with fertility,
for those women whom society labels as
less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.
For their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom and for their love,
we thank you.*

In your name we pray, Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



THAT'S A REALLY GOOD QUESTION!

RCIA: why year-round is better (Part one)

When some parish RCIA teams think about the catechumenate, they think about a teaching schedule. On their websites and in their interviews with seekers, the schedule is what is presented as the way to become Catholic. For example:

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program that welcomes adults into our Catholic community. RCIA classes are held Tuesday nights beginning in September. Catechumens (those not baptized) and candidates (Catholics that have not completed the three sacraments of initiation and people from other Christian denominations who have been validly baptized) are received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. These classes will assist people in developing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and his church.

If I were a brand new seeker, this would tell me that you Catholics have a kind of school that will teach me how to be Catholic. And that school takes place every Tuesday night for about eight or nine months. A lot of parishes operate on this model, and a lot of them do a really good job at it. This model is helpful to some people. But it is not the RCIA. The classroom only model falls short of what RCIA is all about. As Pope Francis tells us our task is to *form lifelong disciples - people who actually stick around after Easter and who "take up this missionary impulse...to go forth to everyone without exception...above all the poor and the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked"* (Pope Francis) "We've always done it this way" is not a strategy.

Pope Francis teaches us: "Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: *We have always done it this way.* I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities. Pastoral ministry in a missionary style is not obsessed with the disjointed transmission of a multitude of doctrines to be insistently imposed. RCIA teams must abandon the "*We have always done it this way*" attitude. —Pope Francis (*Joy of the Gospel*, 33, 35)

If the pope is teaching us that we have to stop obsessing over transmitting doctrine and that we have to stop doing things the way we are doing them just because "we have always done it this way," what then are we supposed to learn about establishing and maintaining an effective RCIA process?

Ponder this - "*People are initiated into Christ, not Catholicism*" (See Part two of this article next week)