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OUR LADY OF VICTORY
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Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/bssaususj>

Our parish office is located at St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530

Our parish office is closed.

Please call and leave a message and we will return your call.

Celebrating Your Faith at Home

We will continue to live stream Masses each Sunday and Thursday at 9 am on our YouTube channel. Visit the parish website (www.ccfp.dol.ca) and click on the link provided or you can go to youtube.com and search Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes.



Next live streamed Masses:
Thursday, May 6 at 9 am
Sunday, May 9 at 9 am
Sunday, May 9 at 10 am (Polish)



Visit our website to see homilies, Sunday reflections and Sunday Friends videos.
Also learn more about our subscription to FORMED
which is full of videos, movies, audio talks, faith studies and so much more!

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor - Fr. Jim Higgins
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St. Joseph Custodian
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Readings for May 9

Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48. 1 John 4: 7-10.
John 15: 9-17.

MAY 2, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

DEACON'S PEN

I am the vine, you are the branches.

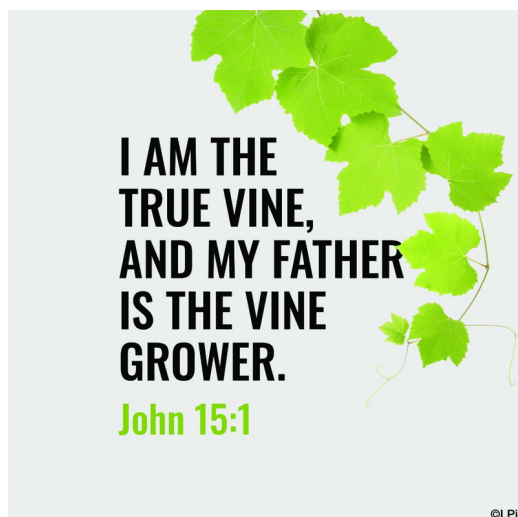
Our life is not a free ride. God is the vine grower, Jesus the vine and we are the branches. Jesus does not say this haphazardly or to be cruel. Rather, he says this because doing good - bearing fruit - is healthy for us as humans. We humans are not unlike a hive of bees - a community that only survives if all take part in the work to make life happen.

Species have developed by being interactive, social and helpful to the other members. As well, varieties of species if they are to survive and prosper have to work in concert with other species. Divide and conquer alone would destroy most of God's creatures. Our brains are tuned to the survival of the fittest - how do we modify our over-zealous growth need to give to others? To love others?

Jesus makes that clear - one part of the system cannot succeed without support from all the others. Take his symbolism one step further - God is the creator; Jesus is the supplier - our strength and hope - and we need his sustenance to grow, expand and bear fruit. He also indicates that pruning expands the ability of the plant to increase its production - we have a need to grow, become better, not just sit on our laurels and let things happen. This also says to me that losing something or part of something can be a stimulus to be or produce better. When we lose in one area we can grow in another - that is pruning - and it can hurt.

This is such a timely gospel, in the Easter season and in early spring. It is the time of year for all of us to remember our agricultural community who work very hard to grow our food. It is important to remember them and that our food is produced by only 1% to 1.5% of our population. The rest of us live off those very few, hard workers. Pray for our farmers.

Deacon Chris Masterson



GLOBAL PRAYER MARATHON

Pope Francis has put his support behind an initiative urging Catholics throughout the world to dedicate the month of May to praying for an end to the pandemic. His wish is that it will "encourage the faithful, individuals, families and communities to recite the Rosary to pray for an end to the pandemic." Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 12 noon (6 pm in Rome) from 30 Shrines in various parts of the world. Pope Francis will open the month on May 1 with a Rosary broadcast, as well as end with the Rosary on May 31.



The broadcast will be available on all Vatican Media platforms - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. You can also visit their YouTube channel by searching "Vatican News."



UPDATE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

Please note that as of January 29, Bishop Fabbro extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation until the end of the Easter Season; that is, up to and including Pentecost Sunday (May 23).

Beginning Monday, April 19: for the duration of the Stay-at-Home order, all churches will be closed. All activities, including Mass, are cancelled.



MASS VIA PHONE

We realize that some members of our parish family do not have access to the internet and therefore cannot watch Mass or pray the Rosary on line. Good news, you can listen to Mass or pray the Rosary from St. George Parish in London by calling 1-226-781-7977 and following the prompts. Don't worry, we tried it and it works!



MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS CANCELLED

It has been decided that since we are now adhering to the stay-at-home order, Mother's Day Flowers in the Churches will be cancelled for this year.



**Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions - May 3 - 8**

*Please note since our Churches are closed
due to the covid-19 pandemic,
these Mass Intentions will be celebrated
privately on the specified date by our priests.*

Monday, May 3 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

Tuesday, May 4- St. Agnes intentions
~ Avelino Ventura
~ Henry O'Neil

Tuesday, May 4 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Jamie & Maria Amaral
~ Tony Kurecka
~ Lionel Richie

Wednesday, May 5 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ People of the parish

Wednesday, May 5 - St. Joseph intentions
~ Intentions of Maureen Foster

Wednesday, May 5 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ Frank Kwik
~ Karl Lachine
~ Claire Meriano

Thursday, May 6 - St. Agnes intentions
~ Theresa Curtin
~ James T. Vasey
~ Jackie Mitchell

Thursday, May 6 - St. Ursula intentions
~ Brian McMath
~ Intentions of Wilbert & Mary Jean Horne
~ Intentions of Sandy Richie

Friday, May 7 - Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ People of the parish

Friday, May 7 - St. Joseph intentions
~ In thanksgiving to the Holy Family

Saturday, May 8 - Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

PRAYER CHAIN

We have people who want to pray for whatever request comes to them. If you need prayers, please contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfooster@dol.ca.

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

Please pray for those who are currently sick in our parish family especially Wayne Lachine and Eva Beausejour.

"a time to die..."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased relatives and parishioners especially Dennis Watson and Roy Downey.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan ministers: Rev. Thomas Janisse; Rev. Matthew Bedard; Rev. Daniel Bombardier; Rev. Richard (Dick) Bester; Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood; Rev. Gary Ducharme; Rev. James Mockler.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

May 3 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8. John 14: 6-14.
May 4 Acts 14: 19-28. John 14: 27-31a.
May 5 Acts 15: 1-6. John 15: 1-8.
May 6 2 Timothy 4: 1-5. John 10: 11-16.
May 7 Acts 15: 22-31. John 15: 12-17.
May 8 Acts 16: 1-10. John 15: 18-21.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
Strengthening your faith**

Reading I Acts 9: 26-31 (Saul visits Jerusalem)

Reading II 1 John 3: 18-24 (God's love and ours)

Gospel John 15: 1-8 (the vine and the branches)

Key Passage: [The vine grower] removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. (John 15: 2)

Adult: When have you been "pruned" by your experiences in a way that led to greater abundance?

Child: When have you felt stronger or better because you did something hard to help another person?



Congratulations to
Michael McMahon & Ashley Flora
Abram Friesen & Christina Brown
who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage
during the month of April.

Congratulations to
Mark Van Rycheghem & Abbey Lee
who had their Marriage convalidated
during the month of April.

May God continue to bless them in their married life.



MAY
IS THE
MONTH TO
REMEMBER
MARY

MAY

A TIME OF PENTECOST



MAY
IS THE
MONTH TO
REMEMBER
MOTHERS

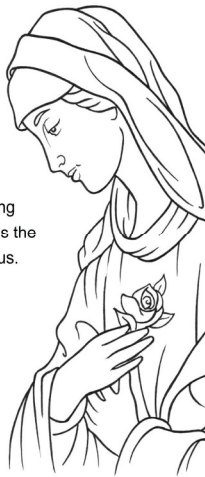
Hail
Mary,

Full of Grace,
The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among
women, and blessed is the
fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now, and at the
hour of our death.

Amen.



As a family, take some time to gather together to pray the Rosary. Ask Mary, our Mother, to take your prayers to Jesus, her Son.

**Come, Holy Spirit.
Fill the hearts of your faithful
And kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
And we shall be created,
And you will renew the face of the
earth.**

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. May our mothers be strengthened with God's blessings. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

24 CUTE MOTHER'S DAY CARD IDEAS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcCRJfxTJY4>

Repeat step 5 and 6 for each decade with a new mystery. When finished say the prayer "Hail Holy Queen".
Then pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the intentions of our Holy Father, Pope Francis.
Finish with the Sign of the Cross.

For each decade of the Rosary, say 10 Hail Marys and on the chain say a Glory Be To the Father, Then the Fatima Prayer:
O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.

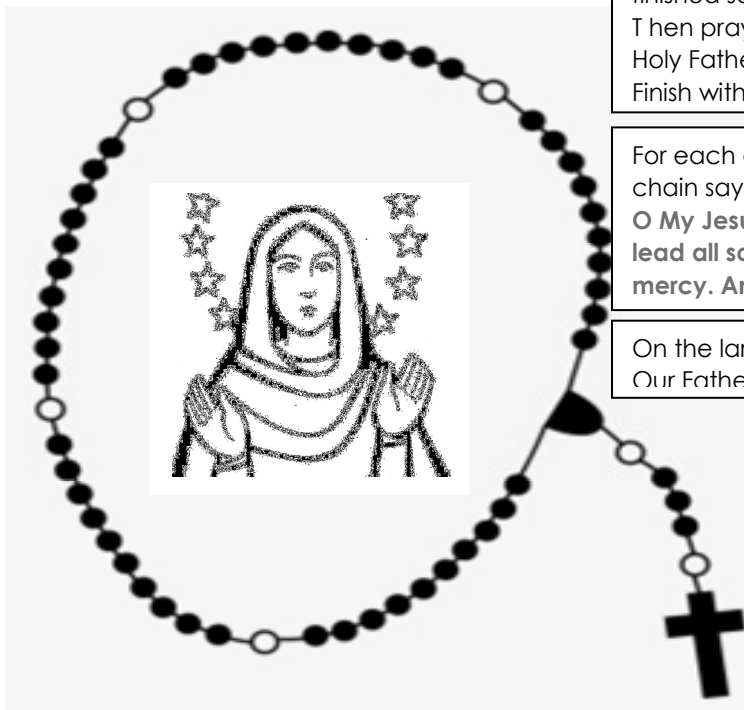
On the large bead, meditate on the first mystery and pray the Our Father.

On the chain, pray the Glory Be To The Father

On the following three small beads pray three Hail Marys.

On the next large bead, say the Our Father.

On the crucifix, make the Sign of the Cross and say the Apostles' Creed.





FAMILY PENTECOST ACTIVITIES



LET'S CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH



"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:1-4

Like the Apostles who gathered with Mary in a room on the Day of Pentecost, gather around your family table and share the account of the first Pentecost. Share with each other these questions:

Which one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit would you ask God to give you in your life right now?

How would you use that gift in your life?

What fruit of the Holy Spirit do you think your family has the most of?

How could your family use that fruit of the Spirit to show God's love to another family?

I wonder why Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit? I wonder how you've seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit in others?



They felt the force of a great wind blow through the room. They felt the Holy Spirit.

Celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost by:
Blowing up balloons and using them to decorate
Take out your kites and fly them together
Go for a nature walk and notice how the wind moves things
Take bubbles outside and blow them together...see how the wind carries them away
Make pinwheels and go outside to let the wind move them. See which one turns the fastest.



They heard the wind blow and the speaking of different languages.

Make some 'great' noises together:

Get noisemakers
Ring bells
Pop balloons
Sing songs with 'alleluia' together
Learn how to say 'Happy Birthday' and 'Happy Easter' in different languages

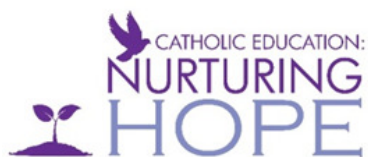


Say this prayer at supper together:
Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.



They saw what seemed like tongues of fire on each of them.
Others saw how happy the apostles were when they went into the streets.

Take out your baptismal candles to use at a mealtime
Gather together around a campfire
Set off some fireworks
Find a globe or a map of the world. Have each family member cover their eyes and touch a spot on the map. Find out about that country and pray for the people who live there
Plan a birthday party to celebrate your baptism when you first received the Holy Spirit. Dress in Pentecost colours of red and white.
Bake a cake with 13 candles-one each for the Apostles and Mary
Make a plan as a family on how you will share the good news of the Holy Spirit with other families in the next year.



Catholic Education Week 2021 begins on Sunday, May 2, 2021. The Catholic schools in our parish will engage in a series of events to celebrate the ongoing gift of publicly funded Catholic education. You are invited to learn about the various celebrations that are happening in your children's school by going to your child's school website and reading its newsletter. Publicly funded Catholic education has existed in Ontario since 1841 and its graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity as their previous generations.

This year's Catholic Education Week theme is, "Nurturing Hope."

The theme for Catholic Education Week 2021 was inspired by the following considerations:

- Recognition of the special Year of Laudato Si' which will run through May 24, 2021, announced by Pope Francis on May 24, 2020, the fifth anniversary of his papal encyclical, "On Caring for Our Common Home."
- In the face of the ongoing reality of the COVID-19 pandemic, a strong desire by the planning committee, along with those consulted, and supported by feedback from the survey, for continuity with the theme for Catholic Education Week 2020, *Igniting Hope*, which has served so well during the spring recess from in-school instruction.
- The challenges to personal and spiritual well-being posed by the uncertainty and physical isolation of the current global crisis makes the timing and the concerns of Mental Health Week, which takes place during the same week as Catholic Education Week, all the more relevant.
- Ongoing recognition of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission and the relevance of Indigenous culture and spirituality to the spirit of Laudato Si.

The CEW biblical quote is, "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength." (Isaiah 40:31)



Sacramental Preparation



Please pray for the children and their families who are patiently waiting and preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Emery A.	Olivia B.	Cameron C.
Allison C.	Andrew C.	Emma G.
Jaxon G.	Savannah H.	Dominic H.
Sierra L.R.	Madeline M.	Autumn P.
Oliver R.	Clinton R.	Logan T.
Taylor T.	Noah V.	Lukas W.
Emily W.	Deven O.	Kallie B.
Reid C.	Emma D.	Troy F.
Hannah G.	Sloane H.	Andrew L.
Ines L.	Luca M.	Jocelyn M.
Rilynn O.	Brinley O.	Benjamin R.
Avery V.	Giada V.	Jayda W.
Anna B.	Jack B.	Julius B.
Aubree D.	Bryson F.K.	Dane M.M.
Samuel O.	Jackson P.	Jordan P.
Olivia S.	Sophia W.M.	Vincent C.
Joseph K.	Gianluca L.	Aubrey W.
Landyn A.	Kensington C.	Sheraton L.
Alexander M.Z.	Gavin V.	Blake W.
Cayson H.	Benjamin S.	Mya W.
Jack B.	Emmersyn C.	Abigail S.
Max C.	Zackary G.	Briana K.
Jerome L.C.	Elio L.	Luca L.
Rhylan S.B.	Claire V.	Mya V.

Please put these names near a place in your home where you are reminded to pray for them. Let us have hope that it will soon be safe for all our families to be able to come together to celebrate at the Table of the Lord.





DIOCESE OF
LONDON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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23 April 2021

To: The Faithful of the Diocese of London

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last Friday, the Government of Ontario communicated the news of the latest lockdown. The “stay-at-home” order was included so that we would avoid as much travel as possible, with as little movement as possible outside our homes. This order was put in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus and its variants, to keep people safe and to protect lives. The variants are mutating rapidly and having a greater impact on young people, leading many more people to contracting some form of the virus and ending up in our hospitals, which are filling to capacity – and in some cases beyond capacity.

Following the announcement of the lockdown, I issued directives that were in line with restrictions that had been previously released, to respect the requirements of the Government while carrying on the best we can in our parishes. The directives were issued with the best intention of keeping people safe and stopping the spread of the virus. We acted out of charity and true concern for our neighbours, knowing these changes would require sacrifices from all of us.

Many who contacted me pointed out that two of these directives were particularly difficult: the closure of our churches and the deferral of Baptisms. I was asked: How is it that Baptisms could be deferred, but funerals and weddings allowed to proceed? If the Government allows ten people at a religious service, why can we not have Masses for the number allowed?

Many parents were concerned since their child's Baptism had been deferred, then rescheduled, only to be deferred again. This became a hardship for some who would wish to go ahead with the celebration of Baptism, while others would choose not to venture forth with a newborn at this time. This desire for Baptism cannot be, however, a matter of fear that an unbaptized child would be separated from God in eternal life. That way of thinking puts limits on God's grace that no human can determine.

With concern for the parents who have waited patiently for Baptism and who would really like the opportunity to celebrate it with their child, **I hereby grant that pastors are allowed to use their discretion to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism in our parishes even during the present “stay-at-home” order.** It is still preferable to defer Baptisms in the spirit of the order and to help prevent further spread, but I also wish these parents to have peace of mind and joy through the Baptism of their child. All the requirements of capacity, distancing, and those aspects outlined in our protocols for the celebration of Baptism during the pandemic must be followed.

Some people asked why we could not have Sunday and weekday Masses, pointing out that we are allowing a funeral Mass for ten people or less. In the last lockdown, it was a great hardship, we know, for those families who could not have a funeral Mass for their loved ones. It was bad enough when a family member died, but then to miss the rituals of the Church added to the pain of loss. When we could open for Masses with ten people, at least some solace was available with very small funerals.

We considered the possibility of allowing Sunday and weekday Masses with ten people, but it became clear that the majority of parishioners would not be accommodated even by a rotation that would last months. To be as fair as possible and knowing that God's grace is not limited to the sacraments, the Episcopal Council, which advises me and stays connected with the deaneries of the Diocese, recommended that we not open when only nine or fewer people could attend Sunday or weekday Masses. Funerals and weddings could proceed, but all other Masses would be offered only by the priest and the minimal number of people necessary for the liturgy. Since there is no way enough Masses could be celebrated to accommodate everyone, it is best that the churches remain closed. To fill the void, many parishes offer livestreamed or recorded Masses, and other Masses are available online.

I am aware most people cannot fulfill their Sunday obligation under these circumstances. For that reason, I granted the dispensation that is in effect until the end of Easter Season this year (23 May). Likely, it will need to be extended again.

Some people asked why our churches are not open for private prayer at this time. While the Government allows it, in the spirit of the "stay-at-home" order and the need to do everything we can to stop the spread of the virus, I decided not to open our churches. This we did in the first lockdown and in January. The members of the Episcopal Council believe it is important to continue in that vein. The question here is: what is essential for our faith? It is essential that we pray and have a relationship with God, but not that we pray in a church. This has been for many a wonderful time to rediscover the idea of the "domestic Church"; that is, that our homes are places of prayer where God dwells. Jesus promised that he would be with us always. He is truly present in the Eucharist and the Blessed Sacrament in our tabernacles, but he is also present in each one of us and in our homes. Let us not forget this important "presence" in our midst.

Finally, a word to those who wrote or called. I thank you for your heartfelt thoughts. I am particularly buoyed up by all of you who told me that you are praying for the Diocese and me. In so many, I saw that your motive was based in charity and genuine concern. For all of that I am truly grateful.

As we manage the way forward in this new reality, it is our charity and concern for others that will win the day. As I said in an Update just before Christmas, "Charity means we must make these sacrifices to help ensure our neighbours are safe. We must care for others in our communities and our fellow parishioners, even if it means we cannot gather for a short time. These measures will further restrict participation in the sacraments and call forth sacrifices from the faithful across the Diocese who have been drawing spiritual nourishment from the sacraments. The severity of the pandemic, however, means we must do our part, out of love, to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus" (Update #15).

With Bishop Dabrowski, I assure you of our prayers. May the Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception, and St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Ronald P. Fabbro, CSB
Bishop of London

REFLECTION

Branching Out Isn't Always What It's Cracked Up to Be

"That's a really beautiful tree branch. Man, would you look at the bark on that thing? The others are real duds, but that low-hanging branch has really got it all together."

I've never heard anyone say this. Maybe I just need to hang out with more arborists, but I can't recall ever hearing someone admire the particular beauty of a single branch. When someone comments on a tree, it's usually the whole tree – perhaps a visual element of it, like the color of the leaves or its height. But people don't usually zero in on one branch.

Maybe that's because usually, if one branch is looking a little weak, chances are every other branch is, too.

The Bible tells us that when we bear fruit as good everyday stewards, it is for the Father's glory. We are the branch on His magnificent tree. What we have is from Him, and what we do likewise points back to Him. We also tend to reflect how well the other branches around us are incorporating the nutrients coming their way. That's all fine and good in theory. In practice, it can be an arduous exercise in humility.

When I do something virtuous or charitable or kind, there is a part of me that wants to stand out for it. I think that's true for all of us. We've given of ourselves in some way or overcome some human temptation to accomplish a little bit of good in this world, and even though we know God sees us, we'd really love for everyone else to see it, too.

It's a struggle, for sure. But we need to remember that our fruit belongs to the whole tree.

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

©LPi



HOW TO DONATE TO

THE CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

As we are all forced to slow down in our current world, unfortunately some things continue along, such as our household bills and expenses. The same goes for our parishes as well, that operate mainly on donations received at Mass. To donate, there are some options such as e-transfer, mailing or dropping off a donation, pre-authorized debit and an easy, online option. For more details, go to our parish website at ccfp.dol.ca and select the "Giving" tab and then "How to donate".

If you wish to drop off donations, please drop them into the white locked mail box at St. Agnes parish office. The mail box is checked daily.

We are so thankful for your continued support throughout these changing times.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORE

Is closed until further notice, due to covid-19 restrictions. Please save your donations. We appreciate your support.

VIRTUAL BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG 2021

Once again this year's BBB Campaign is virtual due to COVID-19 restrictions. The campaign runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day, however, if you wish to donate at any time the link is active. Your charitable receipt will be processed by canadahelps.org.

If you are not comfortable donating online, please mail a cheque (made out to Refuge) and mail directly their office located at:

39 Grand Avenue West
Chatham ON N7L 1B4

If you have any questions or concerns please call their office at 519-352-3611. We are considered an essential service and have been very busy, we appreciate any and all donations. Thank you for your support!

Here is the BBB 2021 fundraiser
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/49216/donation>

CHURCH CHUCKLE

Six year old Angela and her four year old brother, Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang and talked out loud. Finally his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

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