



CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT
145 Victoria Ave
Chatham, ON N7L 3A7
bsacramentparish@dol.ca

OUR LADY OF VICTORY
490 St. Clair St
Chatham, ON N7L 3K8
ourladyv@dol.ca

ST. AGNES
52 Croydon St
Chatham, ON N7L 1L3
stagnes@dol.ca

ST. JOSEPH
180 Wellington St W
Chatham, ON
stjoseph@dol.ca

ST. URSULA
205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
Chatham, ON N7M 5N8
stursula@dol.ca

MARCH 13, 2022 ~ SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Website: chathamcatholic.ca

Facebook: @ChathamCatholicFamily

Twitter: @ChathamCatholic

YouTube: chathamcatholic.tv

Our parish office is located at
St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
Chatham ON N7L 1L3
519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530



Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8 am - 12 noon and 1 - 5 pm
We are closed each day
from 12 - 1 pm for lunch.

Masks must be worn.



PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor ~ Fr. John Jasica
Extension 222 - jjasica@dol.ca

Associate Pastors

Fr. Dariusz Lewandowski, CSMA
Extension 223 - dlewandowski@dol.ca

Fr. Robert Weaver
Extension 224 - rweaver@dol.ca

Pastoral Minister ~ Colleen Keane
Extension 225 - ckeane@dol.ca

Pastoral Minister ~ Ali Chinnick
Extension 227 - achinnick@dol.ca

Deacons

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

Secretary ~ Maureen Foster
Extension 221
mfoster@dol.ca

Financial Secretary ~ Lynda Cadotte
Extension 241
lcadotte@dol.ca

Bookkeeper ~ Barb Butler
Extension 242
bbutler@dol.ca

Data Recorder ~ Cathy Zimmer
Extension 243
czimmer@dol.ca

CUSTODIAL STAFF

Blessed Sacrament Plant Supervisor
Brian Elgie ~ 519-359-9051
belgie@dol.ca

St. Agnes Custodian
Andy Willburger ~ awillburger@dol.ca

St. Joseph Custodian
Patrick O'Malley ~ pomalley@dol.ca

St. Ursula Custodian
Dat Phan ~ dphan@dol.ca

Housekeeper
Maureen MacDonald
mmacdonald@dol.ca

ADJUSTING THE MIXER

By: Fr. John Jasica

CONTINUING OUR MESSAGE SERIES

This weekend I continue with homily #3 of my latest message series called “CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?” This weekend I am at Blessed Sacrament/St. Agnes and on the March 26/27 weekend, I will conclude the message series at St. Joseph/St. Ursula. This series has spanned the last weeks of Ordinary Time and now the first few weeks of Lent. It is all about trying to listen to God and each other better. There is no question that we need to do that more as we are hopefully entering a post-pandemic world that needs to re-connect in a meaningful and powerful way. I also hope that we as people of faith take the extra time to open our hearts to God’s grace so that we can be better and more faithful disciples willing to share the Good News in our daily lives.

HOMILY #1 - TOO MUCH NOISE

In the first homily of the series I shared about a TED talk by Julian Treasure, a communications expert, as he presented five ways to listen better. There is too much noise in the world where we have replaced dialogue and conversation with broadcasting. We don’t really listen to one another but try to be the loudest attempting to dominate and impose our ideas, thoughts and beliefs. For us to truly listen better we really need to open our minds and hearts, stop simply broadcasting and consciously listen to each other to facilitate understanding. Our world is too noisy!!

HOMILY #2 - SILENCE AND SAVOURING

In the second homily of the series I once again referred back to Julian Treasure’s TED talk as he offers us five ways to listen better—two of these ways include SILENCE and SAVOURING. We really need to quiet our hearts, minds and surroundings so that we can be attentive to the subtle and understated, being sure not to miss out on what God and others have to share with us. We also need to savour the mundane sounds in our lives so that we can again train our ears, minds and hearts to not filter out all sounds but to actually appreciate the differences of the various voices in our lives. I also shared about the upcoming synod where Pope Francis is asking the Church to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit through all of us.

BEING A SOUND ENGINEER

I’m no sound technician but I do know my way around an audio mixer through the years—especially in churches. One of the five ways Julian Treasure says can help us listen better is to hear the many different channels of sound that is around us. If we can hear various channels, we can then turn up the quiet ones while turning down the loud ones so that our hearts can listen and understand how God and others speak to us. This becomes extremely crucial for us as there are so many audio channels that compete for our attention. To be a faithful disciple we really do need to be a sound technician—willing to use a mixer so that we can hear clearly.

LENT IS IN THE MIX

I hope and pray that everyone’s Lenten journey is a meaningful

one. We all have our own traditions during this time of renewal, conversion and healing that help us draw closer to God and one another. Many have given up things for the 40 days and others have committed to spending more time in prayer or service to others. Lent is definitely a time for us to adjust the mix of what we hear in our lives seeking that balance which helps us become the best people we can be.

THE NEED TO TUNE IN

I’m a fan of AM TALK radio in addition to various podcasts. I remember the days when you had to adjust the radio signal using a dial and not a seek button. You had to adjust the antenna and slowly turn the tuning dial finding the exact spot where the signal becomes crystal clear. Often you had to turn back and forth until you had the exact position to really hear the songs, news or your favourite team play. It took some work to get that clear and constant signal.

The gift of our faith also requires constant tuning so that we can clearly receive the grace, love and mercy that God has to offer. In the gospel this weekend, we hear another epiphany moment discovering once again who Jesus really is. In the scene of the Transfiguration, we hear the voice of God say, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” (Gospel of Luke). We need to be sure that we adjust our hearts and lives so that we can clearly receive the signal of heavenly grace which helps us be true and faithful disciples in our world today. Here are a few ways that we can tune in and be transformed by God’s eternal love.

(1) PERSONAL PRAYER

There is no question that prayer is at the foundation of our faith lives. Our own daily prayer is really a way for us to tune the dial of our hearts so that we can listen to the Lord. Prayer is about conforming ourselves to His grace and not about convincing Him to go our way. Daily regular prayer, like exercise, helps us tune in and stay up to date!!

(2) EUCHARIST & CONFESSION

What truly feeds our faith life? Christ himself in the gift of the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Peace—both necessary if we are going to have the courage to be light and hope in our world. These two great sacraments are not for our personal benefit alone, but a chance for us to be nourished and loved so that we can be Christ for others.

(3) EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

An examination of our lives at the end of the day really helps us stay tuned in on the channel of God’s light. This is something very easy to do and doesn’t take a lot of time. Before going to sleep think about all the good things that happened to you in the day and thank God for them. Then think about the things that didn’t go so well and ask God for forgiveness. Finally, commit to working on those things that didn’t go so well tomorrow. Over time, this can be a very effective way of staying on track while fixing and healing the areas of our lives that need attention.

(4) SERVE THOSE IN NEED

Our faith is most fully expressed in action helping those in need. Right now Bishop Fabbro has asked us to help the people of Ukraine with financial support through the papal charity CNEWA Canada (Catholic Near East Welfare Association) at www.cnewa.org/ca I know that in the near future we as a family of parishes will also venture to support refugees to our city once the Canadian government and our Diocesan Refugee Office works out all the details and protocols.



Mass Intentions - March 15 - 19, 2022

Tuesday, March 15

8:00 am - St. Agnes

- ~ Cam Cadotte
- ~ Job Parrenas
- ~ Ermelinda Antunes

6:30 pm - St. Ursula

- ~ Ben DeVito
- ~ Sigismondo DeVito
- ~ Erminia Moscariello

Wednesday, March 16

8:00 am - Blessed Sacrament

- ~ Shurley Cadotte
- ~ Intentions of Carolyn & Derek Stepniak & family
- ~ Intentions of Cory & Lisa Gutteridge & family

12:00 noon - St. Joseph

- ~ Rick Francis
- ~ Jim Comiskey
- ~ Intentions of Suzanna Berube et famille

7:00 pm - Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

- ~ Gertrude Wesolek
- ~ Irek Dzieciol
- ~ Izydor & Wladyslawa Kosinscy

Thursday, March 17 - St. Patrick

8:00 am - St. Ursula

- ~ Luisa D'Alias
- ~ Nicola & Gerarda Sullo
- ~ Deceased family members of Grace & Luciano Magliaro

6:30 pm - St. Agnes

- ~ Karl Lachine
- ~ Manuel De Castro
- ~ Ermelinda Antunes

Friday, March 18 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

12:00 noon - St. Joseph

- ~ Michael Harwood
- ~ Jim Comiskey
- ~ All living & deceased clergy & religious

6:30 pm - Blessed Sacrament

- ~ Roger "Bud" White
- ~ Annie & Alex Lemire
- ~ Deceased members of the Balun, Gazarek & Kacer families

Saturday, March 19 - St. Joseph

9:00 am - Our Lady of Victory (English)

- ~ Chris Labonte
- ~ Mary & Ernie Sherman
- ~ Harry Kahue & deceased relatives

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

Please pray for those who are currently sick in our parish family especially Eva Beausejour, Clarita Litschko, Paula DeVito and Kathleen Grant.

"a time to die...."

Please remember in your prayers all our deceased relatives and parishioners especially Don Waddick, Jean Uher and Patricia Dagneau.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for: Rev. Joseph Kannath, Mrs. Ali Chinnick, Pastoral Minister, Rev. Russell Schantz, Mrs. Sue Orcsik, Pastoral Worker, Rev. Anthony Eboh, Rev. Stanislaw Izdebski and the Sisters of St. Joseph.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Transformed by Christ

Reading I Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18
(the covenant with Abram)

Reading II Philippians 3: 17-4:1
(Christ our goal)

Gospel Luke 9: 28b-36
(Jesus transfigured)

Key Passage: But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20)

Adult: How are your priorities affected by your faith in Jesus Christ?

Child: When you have important choices to make, do you and your family pray to make the right choice?

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to

Landon Jones, Casey Handsor,
Parker Degadt, Lainie Marchand,
Oliver Hopkins, Ashley Sterling,
Lucas Rivard, Landon Buchanan,
Tyler Brosseau, Quinn Bertino,
Levi Zelina, Sebastian Wrightman-Ford
who joined our parish family through the
Sacrament of Baptism
during the month of February.

May they always live out their call to discipleship.



LENT 2022

DISCIPLES AT THE CROSS OF MERCY

"THE CROSS SPEAKS" FRIDAY NIGHT LENTEN SERIES

Everyone is invited to Blessed Sacrament Church each Friday night of Lent for an evening of prayer and reflection. These seven Friday evenings will focus on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" spoken from the cross. This series will be live-streamed with links posted at the family website. Each evening will include:

6:30 PM Mass

7:15 PM Reflection at the Cross

7:30 PM Stations of the Cross

Session #3 - Friday March 18, 2022

"'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'"

Session #4 - Friday March 25, 2022

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Session #5 - Friday April 1, 2022

"I am thirsty."

Session #6 - Friday April 8, 2022

"It is finished."

Session #7 - Good Friday April 15, 2022**

(This night begins at 7PM & No Mass)

"Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit."



"The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us—as communities and individuals—to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father."

Pope Francis (Message for Lent 2021)



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

During the Season of Lent, one of the most powerful forms of prayer we celebrate is the "Way of the Cross". May our spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land help us be willing to lay down our lives for others.

Blessed Sacrament Church

Friday March 18, 2022 - 7:30 PM
Friday March 25, 2022 - 7:30 PM
Friday April 1, 2022 - 7:30 PM
Friday April 8, 2022 - 7:30 PM
Good Friday April 15, 2022 - 7:00 PM
(Part of "The Cross Speaks" series)

St. Ursula Church

Tuesday March 15, 2022 - 7:15 PM
Thursday March 31, 2022 - 8:45 AM



St. Agnes Church

Tuesday March 8, 2022 - 8:45 AM
Thursday March 24, 2022 - 7:15 PM
Tuesday April 12, 2022 - 8:45 AM

St. Joseph Church

Wednesday March 16, 2022 - 12:45 PM
Friday April 1, 2022 - 12:45 PM
Wednesday April 6, 2022 - 12:45 PM

Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
Every Wednesday night after Mass
during Lent

LENT "DOOR TO DOOR"

During the pandemic we have endured lockdowns, various restrictions and have not been able to pray, meet or celebrate fully as a faith family. There are so many who are isolated, alone or have drifted away from our community..

The Pastoral Team has put together **500 LENTEN KITS** (100 for each church) that we are asking parishioners to pick up on the weekends during Lent and drop off to people they know who cannot attend Mass or need a faith boost from the family of parishes. These bags are filled with various Lenten prayer resources and a little gift from our faith community. Putting our faith into action!



CONFESSIONS

Blessed Sacrament Church

Saturdays - 9:00 to 10:00 AM
March 19, 26, April 2, 9

St. Joseph Church

Fridays - 11:15 to 11:45 AM
March 18, 25, April 1, 8

St. Agnes Church

Tuesday March 22, 2022 - 8:45 to 10:00 AM

St. Ursula Church

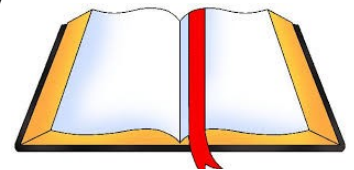
Thursday March 17, 2022 - 8:45 to 10:00 AM
Tuesday April 12, 2022 - 7:15 to 8:30 PM

Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Wednesday March 23, 30 - 6:00 to 6:45 PM

"WORD ALIVE" Reflection Series

Join us for an online/
call-in weekly
scripture reflection
series **each**



Thursday night of

Lent from 7:30 to 8:30 PM. Each week we will review and reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings and allow the Word of God to come alive in our hearts and lives. This is a drop in event and there is no need to register. Find the link at www.chathamcatholic.ca or call-in each week by calling toll free at **1-855-212-2015** and enter **873 282 136#**

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

St. Joseph Traditional Choir is looking for new members. They practice on Thursday evenings at St. Joseph Church at 7 pm and they sing each Sunday at 8 am Mass. If you are interested in joining, please come to practice!

DEACON'S PEN

The common theme of today's readings is transformation.

The old farmer from the countryside who was visiting a big city for the first time with his son, stood speechless before the elevator of a big hotel, watching in wonder, as an old woman got into the elevator, and within minutes, a beautiful young woman came out. He called out to his son who was registering at the reception. "Son, put your mother into that miracle machine immediately. It will transform her into a beautiful young lady."

The word transfiguration means a change in form or appearance. Biologists call it metamorphosis; it describes the change that occurs when a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. As children we might have curiously watched the process of the caterpillar turning into a chrysalis and then bursting into a beautiful Monarch butterfly.

The readings invite us to work with the Holy Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent, so that they radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord to all around us by our Spirit-filled lives.

Fr. Anthony de Mello S.J., tells the story of such a metamorphosis in, *The Prayer Life of An Old Man*.

"I was a revolutionary when I was young and all my prayer to God was: 'Lord, give me the grace to change the world.' As I approached middle age and realized that half of my life was gone without changing a single soul, I changed my prayer to: 'Lord, give me the grace to change all those who come in contact with me; just my family and friends, and I shall be satisfied.' Now that I am old and my days are numbered, I have begun to see how foolish I have been. My one prayer now is: 'Lord, give me the grace to change myself.' If I had prayed for this right from the start, I should not have wasted my life."

Peace and May God Bless you all.
Deacon Morgan

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The National World Day of Prayer took place on March 4. In Canada the co-ordinators are the Women's Interchurch Council of Canada (WICC). The WICC has created a virtual service that can be viewed anytime via this link:

wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer-2022-service-video/

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Madagascar: an ecological village to cope with climate change



Development and Peace's *People and Planet First* campaign celebrates what solidarity can achieve, even against seemingly impossible odds.

In Madagascar, for instance, Development and Peace's partner, the Development Council of Andohatapenaka (CDA), empowers people to manage and transform their neighbourhoods.

In the capital region, which is afflicted by flooding and poor waste management, CDA has helped the residents of one vulnerable area to turn their environs into a thriving ecological village. Today, each of the 50 households involved in the project has a vegetable garden, a stove and solar panels. This transformation reflects a true ecological conversion.

Watch the video at devp.org/lent/act.

CWL UPDATE

Harwich CWL

Thank you to the past Harwich CWL executives for their dedication and devotion throughout their extended appointments. We are excited to introduce the new 2022 - 2023 executive:

Past President: Clara Roesch

President: Geraldine King

President Elect: Pam Sojczynski

Recording Secretary: Caitlyn King

Treasurer: Elinor Howell

Spiritual Convenor: Barb Barnes

Correspondence: Glynda Slade

Councilors: Julia Earley, Shelley Van Overloop, Charlotte Wetzel, Ellen Zimmer, Anne Marie Zink & Deb Zink

We look forward to meeting again in person in the near future!



Harwich CWL would like to thank the FABULOUS BAKERS for the DELICIOUS cookies and tarts! As well as the parishioners for your support of their February Drive Through Valentine's Bake Sale. It was a great success and they raised \$755.00!

E-BULLETIN

Are you interested in receiving the bulletin by email. If so, contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfooster@dol.ca or you can view it on the Family of Parishes website at www.chathamcatholic.ca.

MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

With the lifting of some of the COVID-19 restrictions we are restarting various ministries! One very important ministry is outreach to nursing and retirement home residents as well as to the homebound. This involves praying with them and bringing them Holy Communion as well as visiting with them. Fr. Robert Weaver is coordinating this ministry for our family of parishes. If you have been involved in this ministry in the past and would like to again or if you would like to start, please phone or email the parish office and provide your contact information.

SYNOD LISTENING SESSIONS

For several decades now, Catholic bishops from around the world have gathered every two to three years for *synods*, which means “walking together.” They do this in order to prayerfully discuss important issues facing the Church and to more fully recognize the workings of the Holy Spirit. The next Synod of Bishops is scheduled for 2023 but in preparation for this Pope Francis is inviting parishes from around the world to conduct meetings or “listening sessions.” The purpose of these sessions is to hear from both Catholics and non-Catholics about their experiences of the Church and their hopes for the Church in the future. Information gathered from these sessions, which may be held in-person and on-line, will be forwarded on to bishops and will shape their meeting in Rome in 2023. Fr. Robert Weaver is co-ordinating these listening sessions for the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes and he is seeking people to volunteer as facilitators of discussions and as notetakers. If you are interested in participating in one of these important ministries, please phone or email the parish office and provide your contact information.

CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN C-K LENTEN SHOE DRIVE - MARCH 21 to 27

The annual CFFC “Lenten Shoe Drive” is back this year and will take place from **Monday, March 21 to Sunday, March 27**. Boxes are located at each church and you are asked to donate your gently used shoes that will be sent to our brothers and sisters in Africa. Please check your closets and storage boxes for those lightly used shoes that you do not wear anymore. This simple act of kindness changes lives.



What kind of shoes are they looking for?

Running shoes	Sneakers	Sandals
Flip flops	Work boots	Rubber boots
Children's shoes		

*****Any casual style or work shoe can be donated.
Please do not donate winter boots.***

WEEKDAY & WEEKEND MASS TIMES

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday 5:00 pm at Blessed Sacrament
(live-streamed)
Sunday 8:00 am at St. Joseph
(live-streamed)
9:00 am at Blessed Sacrament
(live-streamed)
9:30 am at Our Lady of Victory (English)
10:00 am at St. Ursula
11:00 am at St. Agnes
11:00 am at Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
Noon at St. Joseph

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Tuesday 8:00 am at St. Agnes
6:30 pm at St. Ursula
Wednesday 8:00 am at Blessed Sacrament
(live-streamed)
12 noon at St. Joseph
7:00 pm at Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
Thursday 8:00 am at St. Ursula
6:30 pm at St. Agnes
Friday 12 noon at St. Joseph
6:30 pm at Blessed Sacrament
(live-streamed)
Saturday 9:00 am at Our Lady of Victory (English)

LIVE-STREAMED MASS

Masses are live streamed on our YouTube channel (www.chathamcatholic.tv). Visit the parish website (www.chathamcatholic.ca) and click the live-stream link at the top of the page. See Mass schedule above for live-streamed Masses.

MASS VIA PHONE-STREAM

You can listen to Mass from St. George Parish in London by calling 1-226-781-7977 and following the prompts.

DISPENSATION EXTENDED

The dispensation from the Sunday obligation is now extended to Sunday, June 5.

CHURCH CHUCKLE

My daughter was enjoying a bedtime snuggle with her three-year-old son, Luka. Making conversation she asked him, “What makes you happy?”

He eagerly responded, “Chocolate milk.”

“And what makes you sad?” my daughter continued.

Luka replied, somberly and quietly, “the other kind.”

OUR FAMILY LENTEN JOURNEY : WEEK TWO



GROWING IN



When you love someone, you usually want to spend time with that person. That is how you get to know each other. Jesus loves each one of us and wants you to spend time with Him every day, especially during Lent. One way you can do this is to find a quiet place to pray and invite Jesus to sit with you.

LECTIO DIVINA

Praying with God's Word in the Bible is a wonderful way to get to know Jesus. There is a special guided meditation called "Lectio Divina" which means 'divine reading.' To use this method of prayer you can follow these easy steps.



READ

THINK

PRAY

LISTEN



Find a quiet place to sit away from noise and distractions. Choose a passage from the Bible to read. It might be the Gospel for Sunday. Read the passage slowly, at least three times. You might need someone to help you read. Sometimes it helps to read it out loud.



What is happening in the story? What do you see? What do you hear? What words or phrases jump out to you? What is this story saying to you? What do you think you are learning from God's Word? What do you think Jesus might be teaching you?



It's time to talk to God or Jesus. What would you like to say to God? What do you need help understanding? What would you thank God for? What questions do you have about this story?



Now it's time to sit quietly and rest while you listen to what God wants to say to you. You can ask God, "What change are you asking me to make after hearing Your Word? Write it down. Thank God!"



Maybe you can use this passage to try Lectio Divina....Mark 9:2-10

After six days, Jesus took Peter, James and John with him. They went up a high mountain. Suddenly, Jesus looked different. His clothes became so white they shone. Then all of a sudden, two prophets that had died long ago, appeared. They were Moses and Elijah. They began to talk with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three tents. One will be for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter didn't know what to say because he and James and John were so afraid. Then a cloud appeared and covered them. A voice came from the cloud, saying,

"THIS IS MY SON AND I LOVE HIM. LISTEN TO HIM."

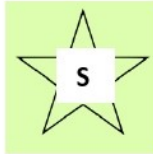
Peter, James and John looked around. Suddenly, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what they had seen. He told them to wait until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept quiet but they asked each other, what does 'rising from the dead mean?'

PUTTING OUR LENTEN JOURNEY INTO ACTION

Prayer is like having a conversation or chat with a good friend. God asks you to talk to Him about anything. The more you spend time with God, the more you become a prayer super STAR! You can use these kinds of prayers:



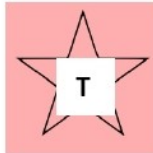
Show honour and praise to God.



God I praise you for _____
Jesus, I adore you because _____
Holy Spirit you are _____



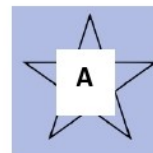
Thank God for your blessings.



God, I thank you today for _____
Jesus, thank you for _____
Holy Spirit I give thanks for _____



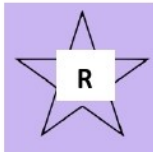
Ask God for your needs and others' needs.



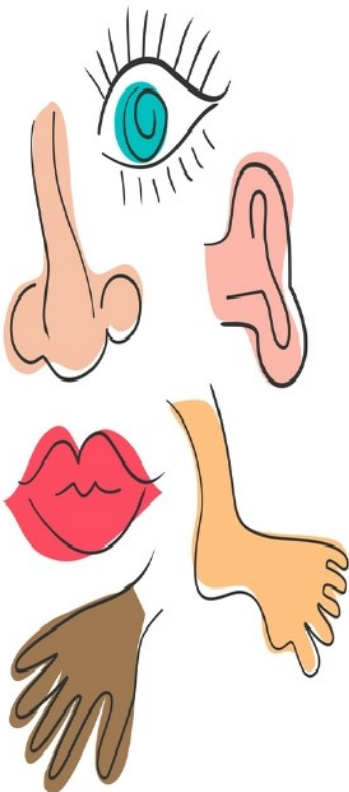
God, please help me _____
Jesus, my friend needs _____
Holy Spirit, hear my prayer for _____



Reconcile with God. Say you are sorry to God and others. Pray for your enemies.



God, I am sorry I _____
Jesus, please forgive me for _____
Holy Spirit, help me forgive _____



Romans 12:1 "Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your true and proper worship."

Lent is a time for you to become the best you can be. You can make changes so you can be more loving and a better disciple for Jesus. One way is to pray with your body.

GOD, I GIVE YOU MY....

- EYES-** Let me see your face in others and recognize their needs. Help me use my eyes to learn more about the way you want me to live
- EARS-** Let me listen to your Word through my parents, my teachers and my church. Close my ears to gossip and lies.
- LIPS-** Let me always tell the truth. Give me courage to speak up for others who do not have a voice. Help me share your Word with others so they might learn about your love through me..
- FEET-** Let me answer your call when you say "Follow Me". Help me go to places where you need me to work with others. Help me stay away from situations that will harm me. Keep me on the right path.
- HANDS-** Let me use my hands to comfort, to help, to bless, to hold others. Let your hands be my hands to offer peace not hate.
- NOSE:** Let me breathe in your Holy Spirit and let your grace fill me with only You!



FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021

By Fr. John Jasica

WORDS OF THANKS!



I want to begin this financial review of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes with words of gratitude and thanks to all the parishioners of the family. Thank you for your participation, involvement and financial support to help us be a shining light of

faith, hope and love in Chatham. The pandemic has presented many challenges and difficulties for all of us but your perseverance continues to bring the joy of the Gospel.

I also want to thank the Family Parish Staff for adapting during these most difficult circumstances continuing to offer ministry, programs and outreach with so many amazing volunteers during a most unprecedented time in our world. Your dedication and self-sacrifice has brought grace and joy to so many in our faith community and beyond.

Finally, I want to thank the Family Pastoral Council and the Family Finance Committee for their hard work and guidance during my first eight months as the pastor. There are so many things to learn when you arrive to one parish but the learning curve is so much greater with a family of five.

LEARNING TAKES TIME

Over my nearly 21 years of priesthood, I have been assigned to single parishes and clusters both in urban and rural settings. I have experienced a number of transitions as I was assigned to London (St. Pius X and St. Joseph Cluster), Wallaceburg and Port Lambton (Sacred Heart, Holy Family, Our Lady Help of Christians cluster), Goderich (which became a cluster that included parishes in Kingsbridge, St. Augustine, Clinton and Lucknow) and two years as Diocesan Vocations Director before returning to parish ministry for nine years at St. George Parish, London. Now I am blessed to



be pastor of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes. I am eager to work with everyone.

It has truly been a great honour to serve in all of these communities and ministries over the years. In every transition, there is a period of time to learn about the communities, get to know the people and discover the history and journey of the parishes. This is where I am today in Chatham.

I am learning something new each day and getting to know the staff and parishioners slowly despite the pandemic. I am also learning about the various ministries, programs, outreach and traditions that have built up our five churches from being individual parishes, then as clusters and now as a family. In each of these circumstances things operated differently based on the needs of the people. I ask for your patience and understanding as I take the time to learn and understand our family so that together, we can move forward.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION



With all of this in mind, I am slowly working with the Family Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and staff developing a pastoral vision for the future in light of the post-pandemic world, examining pastoral priorities, reviewing financial trends over

the past several years and the family of parishes cost sharing mechanism (how shared costs are paid for by each parish). We need to see how we all can make our faith community a relevant, vibrant and active sign of Christ in Chatham and the world.

This process will require more clear communication and consultation with all the faithful of our family so that we can truly discern how the Lord is calling us to change and adapt so that we can be the light of Christ today. This process will unfold over the next several months and will include various opportunities for conversations, input and feedback. Stay tuned—there is more to come!!

GENERAL FINANCIAL OBSERVATIONS



The financial results for 2021 can be found on page 3 of this report. You can see the totals for each individual community and in the last column, as a family. In this review I want to add some general

observations while also reporting specifically on each church of our family. I hope to offer some insight and information that will be helpful. Here are some general comments:

(1) THE PANDEMIC

There is no question that the pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives, including our faith family. Many people have not come to church, travelled or even ventured from home due to the different variants and ease of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Add to this the various lockdowns and restrictions—churches, charities and businesses have suffered financially. This is not surprising and is a challenge for all the parishes in the Diocese of London.



We do not completely know the long-term affects of the pandemic. We are not sure if everyone will return to church once we reach a “new normal.” There is also a concern regarding volunteers and the various ministries that could not operate in the last two years—will they continue?

Despite all of the questions and concerns that the pandemic has caused—my hope is that this becomes an opportunity to reset why and how we minister in our family of parishes. The pandemic has given us a chance to embrace new ways to connect, support and engage one another. In the long run I think it will help us refocus our efforts to form disciples who reach out to all.

(2) CANADA EMPLOYMENT WAGE SUBSIDY

Canada Emergency
Wage Subsidy

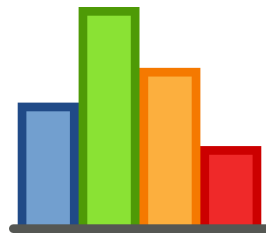
One of the blessings during this time has been the federal government support that we have received in the last two years. The

Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which we as a diocese have applied for monthly has been a great help for us. You can see on line #7 of the financial summary that we as a family received **\$171,850** in 2021. This compares to **\$148,454** that we received in 2020. Without these funds we would be in much worse shape.

Unfortunately, the CEWS program has ended and we are only going to receive three more payments in 2022.

(3) REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

The 2021 financial summary chart on page 3 shows the general revenue and expenditures for each church in our family. We understand that the majority of our revenue is made up of the Sunday offertory, Christmas, Easter and the Thanksgiving Appeal. Due to the pandemic, these numbers have continued to decrease in 2021. The CEWS over the last two years has helped supplement the revenue decrease but we know this ends in early 2022.



Expenditures generally stay constant. This includes hydro, gas, insurance and compensation. Liturgical and ministry expenses decreased over the last two years but will increase again once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

We will see some savings in 2022 with the reduction of staff. Karen Robert, a pastoral minister, left parish work in July 2021 while our Business Administrator, Rodger Luxton, retired at the end of October 2021. We must keep in mind that we lack a Family & Youth Coordinator while I, Fr. John, am taking on the business administrator duties at the moment.

(4) PASTORAL PLANNING



We are hoping that with the lifting of most restrictions happening in March 2022, many people will come back to church in a “new normal” for society. Could we be past the

worst of the pandemic? I hope so. With this in mind, we will see more people at Mass, more groups restarting and ministries growing. This will also mean increased costs that we did not incur in 2020 and 2021.

This adds to the challenge of having enough financial resources to offer a wide variety of ministries, programs and outreach to form disciples, support families, serve the needy and accompany those in our long-term care homes and the homebound.

As we plan for the future, we need to discuss and discern with God’s help, what we need to keep, change and let go so that we continue to invest in people who can help share the Good News and change the world. We need to shift from maintenance to mission—embracing anew the call of Christ in the Gospel.

CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

FINANCIAL RESULTS--DECEMBER 31, 2021

	St. Ursula	St. Joseph	St. Agnes	Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady of Victory	Total Family
1) Operating Revenues	\$237,961	\$282,613	\$241,555	\$348,483	\$73,601	\$1,184,213
2) Operating Expenses	\$314,892	\$422,778	\$293,838	\$321,754	\$82,874	\$1,436,136
3) Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(-\$76,931)	(-\$140,165)	(-\$52,283)	\$26,729	(-\$9,273)	(-\$251,923)
4) Capital Revenues	\$2,991	\$30,257	\$3,642	\$8,767	\$4,009	\$49,666
5) Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,660	\$0	\$34,660
6) Capital Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,991	\$30,257	\$3,642	(-\$25,893)	\$4,009	\$15,006
7) Canada Wage Subsidy	\$43,719	\$45,471	\$38,670	\$43,990	\$0	\$171,850
8) Total Surplus (Deficit)	(-\$30,221)	(-\$64,437)	(-\$9,971)	\$44,826	(-\$5,264)	(-\$65,067)
9) Total Cash Resources	\$453,476	\$511,559	\$107,102	\$288,310	\$145,911	\$1,506,358

ST. URSULA CHURCH



As you can see in the chart above, St. Ursula Church had a total deficit of (-\$30,221) in 2021 which includes the CEWS benefit of \$43,719. Total cash resources as of December 31, 2021 includes \$57,189 in the general account, \$43,174 in the Spirit and Life Centre account and \$353,113 in the capital Loan Fund with the diocese. Diocesan policy requires that funds in excess of current needs be invested in the Load Fund. The parish receives interest on these funds.

In 2021 St. Ursula Church had a new digital mixer installed with a new ambo mic (costs covered by a benefactor) with some wiring repairs which fixed some speakers that have not worked in a long time. We installed new LED lighting in the narthex, hallways and chapel area. We also repainted and refreshed the rectory as this is the residence for Fr. John. In general, the building is in good shape with no planned major maintenance.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

As you can see in the chart above, St. Joseph Church had a total deficit of (-\$64,437) which includes the CEWS benefit of \$45,471. As of



December 31, 2021 we had \$73,635 in the general bank account, \$233,886 in the Spirit and Life Centre account, and \$204,038 in the capital Loan Fund account with the diocese.

In 2021 we installed a video live-streaming system (costs covered by a donor) and upgraded the sound system with digital mixers and new speakers in the church with donations that helped cover some of the costs. Volunteer labour also kept costs down. We also added new microphones in the choir loft and transept choir area (in thanks to donations from the Harwich CWL). New LED lighting was installed which has offered much better lighting with the benefit of much less hydro use. I am thankful to all four custodians who worked very hard to install the many bulbs required.

We know that both towers of the church will need major work from a July 27, 2018 report by POW PETERMAN Consulting Engineers. Both towers require some masonry work, mortar joint repairs, new caulking and repairs to flashing so that water does not come in. The preliminary report estimated the costs at \$487,000. We are awaiting for an updated quote with current costs.

Spirit & Life Centre—When the campaign started in 2015, all the St. Joseph donations were retained in a separate savings account, along with other capital donations for church restoration. At St. Ursula, a separate bank account was also used for campaign donations. In May 2018, the diocese requested that the St. Joseph Spirit and Life donations accumulated to that point (\$308,857) be transferred to the diocesan Loan Fund so that the funds earn a higher interest.

Back in 2018 some windows on the second floor were replaced at a cost of \$67,174 and in 2020 a new flat roof was required due to major leaks. These leaks caused water damage in the basement. The basement cannot be currently used. An initial payment of \$187,000 for the new flat roof was made in 2020 with a balance of another \$51,000 due in 2022 as this project comes to completion. Funds from the Spirit and Life account are being used for these payments.

ST. AGNES CHURCH



As you can see in the chart on page 3, St. Agnes Church had a deficit of (-\$9,971) which includes the CEWS benefit of \$38,670. The parish currently has \$63,111 in their general account and \$43,991 in the diocesan Loan Fund as of December 31, 2021.

Loan fund money that was originally reserved for a capital renovation of the interior of the church when Fr. Daniel Bombardier was the pastor, has been used to help cover operating costs for the last few years. The building itself is in good shape and there are no plans for renovations or upgrades.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH



The chart on page 3 shows Blessed Sacrament had a surplus of \$44,826 which included a CEWS benefit of \$43,990. As of December 31, 2021 Blessed Sacrament had \$107,249 in their general account and \$181,061 in the diocesan capital Loan Fund

account. There are no plans for any renovations but quotes are being sought for the replacement of a broken air conditioning unit that serves the Good Shepherd Room and the entire stairwell of the addition built between the church and the rectory.

In 2021 we did install a new live-streaming system and permanently mounted a new projector (all covered by benefactors). We upgraded the sound system with a new digital mixer and moved the sound system into the Control Room (storage area in the choir loft) making more room available for musicians. We also added some extra lighting for

the sanctuary which benefits live-streaming but also sheds more light on the ambo and baptismal area.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY



As you see in the summary on page 3, Our Lady of Victory had a total deficit of (-\$5,264) and did not receive any CEWS funds because the church only covers a small portion of one priest in the family. CEWS is directed to support employee compensation. As of December 31, 2021, Our Lady of Victory had \$87,289 in their general account and \$58,622 in the diocesan Loan Fund.

The flat roof that spans the sacristy, hall, washrooms and hall kitchen is in need of replacement. The roof is beyond repair. In consultation with the diocese, tenders went out in December 2021 with the lowest bid at \$124,000 plus HST. After consultation with the OLV Building Committee and the Family Finance Committee, the bid was rejected and further consultation with the diocese occurred. Alternative quotes with varying options of roofs is currently in process. We are waiting for quotes from other roofing companies. This work will need to take place in spring 2022.

The back hall entrance doors have been replaced at no cost to the church in March 2022 (with thanks to the Polish Club). The choir loft railing will also be raised to be in line with current regulations. The hall kitchen fire suppression system is also currently being upgraded.

IN CONCLUSION

We as a family of parishes, along with all the parishes in the diocese, are facing a variety of pastoral and financial challenges that we are forced to face much sooner due to the pandemic.

We need staff, volunteers and financial resources to develop, support and grow ministries and programs so we can form disciples who reach out to those in need bringing people to Christ and our faith community. At the same time we face declining attendance, an aging population and buildings that require constant care and maintenance.

We cannot stay in our current circumstances for very long. Together, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, we need to discover a pathway that leads us from trying to maintain what we have to discerning what we need for the sake of our mission to proclaim the Gospel. I am confident that in the months and years ahead, we will find that path and continue to grow as one family together.

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For information call or email Steve Brent at 519-360-7814 or kofc1412@gmail.com

St. Ursula Council #9551
Meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm
For information email Gerard Masse at 519-401-8260 or gerardmasse46@gmail.com

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