



Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes

*Serving St. Joseph, Our Lady of Mercy, St. Benedict, Queen of Peace,
Sacred Heart, St. Thomas d'Aquin, and St. Michael Parishes*

Our Family was activated on July 5, 2021. It is hard to believe how much work has been accomplished in such a short time and how much more work has yet to be accomplished. Beginning on Sunday July 4th, we have been blessing each of our parishes with a Eucharistic Procession. It is our hope that will all come together in the Fall to celebrate Mass as a family.

Our name **Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes** unites our seven Catholic parishes located in Sarnia and Brights Grove along the beautiful blue banks of Lake Huron. The logo that was designed by the volunteer parishioners with the help of Scott Palko and his team at CCI Studios, represents our parishes well.

The rising sun with 7 rays: *Our seven parishes coming together (Acts 2:3 - Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.)*

The cross: *our salvation through Christ's sacrifice, redemption, and atonement. (Ephesians 2:15-17 - He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new Humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So, he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.)*

The white dove: *The Holy Spirit (John 1:32 - And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.)*

The blue waves: *our parishes' geographical location, Sarnia Bluewater*

We are very grateful for the work that was done by the Transition Team, the Logo Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, the Celebration Steering Committee and all the parishioners who shared their thoughts, ideas and suggestions as we developed the plan for our Family of Parishes. A lot was accomplished in just a few months, during a stressful global pandemic. Our parishes are blessed with so many generous and faith-filled people. Thank you!

Coming together as a family has brought about some changes that we hope will enable us to share resources and work more efficiently. The business office will be located at 1011 Oak Avenue with satellite offices at Sacred Heart: Tuesday & Friday - 8:30am to Noon; St. Michael: Wednesday & Friday 8:30am to Noon; St. Thomas d'Aquin: Monday, Wednesday & Friday - 9:00am to 3pm, and Queen of Peace: Tuesday 10am to 2pm, Wednesday 1pm to 5pm & Friday 2:30pm to 6:30pm. Our phones and computers will soon be networked, so calling the number of any parish will allow you to connect with all of our personnel. The phones will be answered daily from 9 AM to 5 PM.

A new Family of Parishes website has been developed to keep everyone up to date on all information, events, activities and news for all seven parishes. Under one umbrella the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes website includes pages for each individual parish Knights of Columbus council, Catholic Women's League and ministries in our Family. We also have a presence on social media with a Family Facebook page and YouTube channel. We are committed to ensuring that our parishioners are kept informed about what is happening in all of our parishes. Visit the website often, Like our Facebook page and Subscribe to our YouTube channel so you stay informed.

A Family of Parishes bulletin is another new feature for our Family. News from all parishes along with all Mass intentions and ministry updates are now in one location. The bulletin is emailed to parishioners who have shared their email address with the office so if you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it sent to you, please contact the parish office to update your email address.

Meet our Pastoral Team serving our seven parishes

Pastor: Fr. Brian Jane

Associate Pastor: Fr. Anthony Eboh

Associate Pastor: Fr. Dan Vere

Associate Pastor: Fr. Jan B Burczyk C.S.M.A.

Associate Pastor: Fr. José Montepeque

Deacon: Christopher Stoesser

Deacon: David Cummings

Deacon: David Robertson

Deacon: Lyle Lalonge

Lay Ecclesial Minister: Leanne Moran

Lay Ecclesial Minister: Leonia Downey

Business Administrator: Chris Doyle

Meet our Family Admin Staff

Financial Secretary: Cathy Cimetta

Financial Secretary: Lisa DeSena

Administrative Assistant: Anna lafrate

Administrative Assistant: Czeslawa Piechota

Administrative Assistant: Debby Winterton

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Christie

Administrative Assistant: Sylvie Legault

Meet our Family Custodial Staff

Chris Burley, Bill Nelson, Mike Potvin, Teena Burley, Ana Maria Moniz, Ray DiBrita, Diane Wigchert, Alicia Diccion and Gayle Carroll.

Faith Formation

Parishioners and friends are invited to participate in the Bible studies being offered in our Family of Parishes.

The Search, a 7-week series, is taking place at Sacred Heart Church every Tuesday evening at 7:30 beginning August 3rd. Strengthen your faith with this beautiful new video program that explores life's big question.

Alpha is a wonderful opportunity to explore basic life questions, with a group of people, while staying in the comfort of your home. We will gather together on Zoom for a 12-week series of interactive sessions to explore the basic questions of life and faith.

More information and registration for both studies is available on the Family of Parishes website or by calling the business office at (519) 336-2653.

Mass Times

The reduction in the number of priests serving our new Family necessitated adjusting the daily and weekend Mass schedules.

Church law and Diocesan norms limit the number of Masses that a priest should offer on a weekend. With the addition of weddings, funerals and school masses, our planning needed to be realistic and achievable from the beginning.

Attached is the current daily and weekend Mass schedule. The priests and the deacons will alternate between the seven locations for both preaching and presiding.

Mass on Cogeco: every Sunday at 12 NOON our Family of Parishes mass is televised on Cogeco channel.

Sacraments

Funerals: After your initial contact with the funeral home, please contact the parish office for Mass, service or internment preparation. Pre-planning is encouraged.

Weddings: The Roman Catholic Church asks that marriages take place in the sacred space of the church; that the couple has marriage preparation; and that the marriage be celebrated before the Church's representative. Please contact the parish office at least 9 months in advance before beginning to plan your wedding.

Baptisms: The restrictions brought about by the pandemic or other needs have altered our Baptism schedules. Please contact the parish office to make an appointment to have your child baptized.

First Confession, First Holy Communion & Confirmation: Dates for Sacramental preparation will be announced in the bulletin and on the website.

Youth Ministry

With recommendations from the Youth Advisory Committee, our new Family has decided to hire a full time Youth Minister. The youth minister will work closely with our Lay Ecclesial Ministers, our 7 Catholic elementary schools and our 2 Catholic high schools. We hope to develop a vibrant ministry for our Youth.

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee

Most members of the Transition Team have agreed to remain in place while a new Pastoral Council can be discerned to serve the Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes. Their role, for the immediate future, will be to discern pastoral priorities and goals for the Family.

One or two parishioners from each parish will sit on the Parish Finance Committee. Their role will be twofold: to steward the resources of our Family and to find ways of funding the pastoral priorities and goals set by the Parish Pastoral Council.

The Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Finance Committee has agreed to a cost sharing on all items which will be used by our seven parishes. This cost sharing will also apply to new personnel being hired. This arrangement will be reviewed in six months after we have had time together as a family and better understanding.

Change is never easy and decisions are often made with the best information that we have at the time. We will be undertaking a survey of all parishioners in August/September and soon thereafter we will seek input to develop future plans for the Family.

All of us will be called upon to be patient and to be flexible. In the meantime, if you have thoughts or concerns that you would like considered, please bring them to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council.

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I am grateful for the opportunity to begin working with you. Please remember me in your prayers.

Yours in the Lord,

Brian Jane (Rev.)

Pastor of the newly formed Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes