



**Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes**

**FEBRUARY 2025
FÉVRIER 2025**

Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles



The image of the anchor... helps us to recognize the stability and security that is ours amid the troubled waters of this life, provided we entrust ourselves to the Lord Jesus. (*Spes Non Confundit*, 25)



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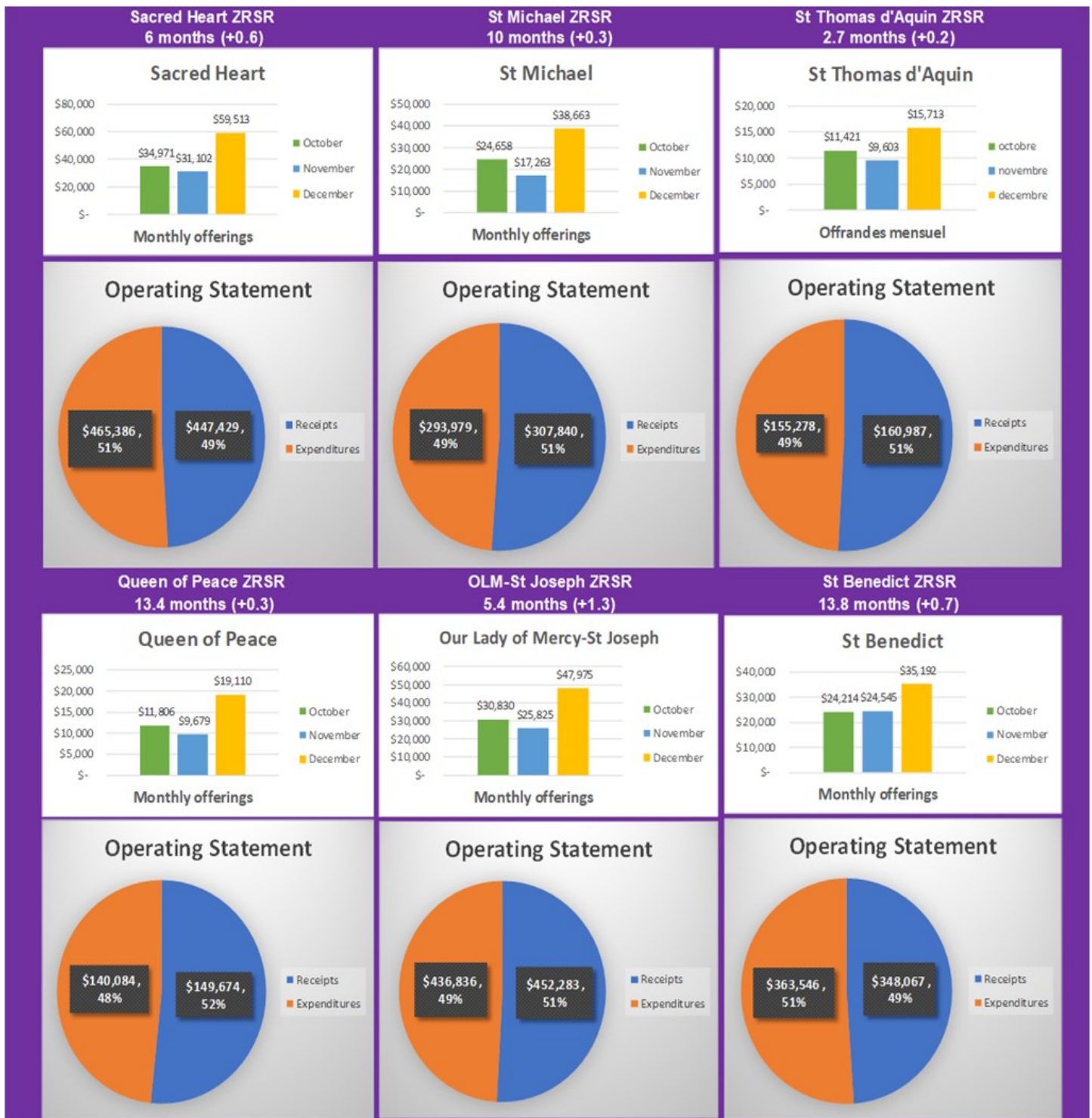
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Welcoming Communities, Encountering Christ, Sharing Faith and Caring for All

RENDER UNTO CAESAR A FINANCIAL COLUMN

2024 has come and gone and we now have a better idea of how well the various parishes in our Family were able to meet their financial obligations. December is usually the time when parishes start to turn a surplus. This year was no exception.

Your generous giving allowed us to close the books in a better financial situation than at the start of 2024. The December monthly offerings represented close to 15% of your yearly weekly contributions. This allowed us to post surpluses for most of our parishes and to close the deficit gap for some.



FACILITIES, FINANCIAL UPDATES

Safety/ Security

As previously reported, the Diocese of London is implementing an occupational Safety and Health Program. The goal is to protect workers from health and safety hazards on the job. The program will set out duties for all workplace parties and rights for workers to help establish a strong internal responsibility system at workplaces managed by the diocese.

To ensure the safety of staff and parishioners, considering recent events at one of our parishes, we are reviewing all our security protocols with the goal of reducing the risk of violence at the workplace. As a first step, we are restricting admission to the Family of Parishes office. Visitors will be required to buzz for access and will be admitted once identified.

We are looking at more secure ways to access and monitor our sites by adopting best practices available in industry. These changes will involve new protocols, new hardware and more importantly a new mindset of how we evaluate risks and how we will mitigate them. More to come on this file.

Facility Usage

A question I am frequently asked is how can I rent a hall? We are not a commercial hall operator and therefore do not rent our facilities for commercial or private functions. To know the steps required to have access to one of our facilities, please refer to Use of Facility Guidelines on the Family of Parishes website under the heading of "Meeting Rooms".

2024 Charitable Tax Receipts

As per previous years, tax receipts will be available for pick up at individual parishes starting on the 3rd week-end of February. If not picked up by the end of the 4th weekend, tax receipts will be mailed to the donor's address on file.

Louis Guimond
Business Manager

St. Michael Finance Council parish representative

We have an opening on the Finance Council for a St. Michael representative. St. Michael parishioners are encouraged to consider submitting their name for this position to serve your parish community.

Please contact Louis Guimon at lguimond@dol.ca for more information.

Jackpot Time Bingo in Support of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish

Jackpot Time has been serving up gaming in the city of Sarnia for more than 30 years and has raised over \$15 million dollars for regional charities. Jackpot Time, located at 825 Upper Canada Drive, provides a full-service entertainment experience that's relevant to our community today.

St. Thomas d'Aquin Parish partnership with Jackpot Time Bingo in Sarnia has allowed us to raise money to assist with repairs & maintenance expenses and capital upgrades in our parish.

If you are interested in what Jackpot City has to offer, please go to their Facebook page at: Jackpot Time Sarnia or visit their website at: <https://sarnia.jackpottime.ca>

Thank you to the supporters of Jackpot Time Bingo.



The logo shows four figures stylised to indicate humanity coming from the four corners of the earth. They are embracing each other to indicate the solidarity and brotherhood which joins the peoples.



The figure at the head is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which embraces, but also of the hope which can never be abandoned because we are always in need of hope, especially in moments of great need.



The underlying waves are choppy to indicate that the pilgrimage of life is not always on calm waters. This is why the lower part of the Cross is elongated turning into an anchor, which dominates the movement of the waves. The anchor has often been used as a metaphor for hope.

Pilgrims of Hope

The image demonstrates that the pilgrim's journey is not individual, but communal and marked by a growing vitality leading one always closer to the cross, which turns towards humanity, not leaving it alone but going out and meeting it to offer it the certainty of its presence and the sureness of hope.




Le logo montre quatre personnages stylisés pour représenter l'humanité venant des quatre coins du monde. Elles s'enlacent pour indiquer la solidarité et la fraternité qui unissent les peuples.

Le personnage de tête s'accroche à la croix. C'est non seulement le signe de la foi qui embrasse, mais aussi de l'espérance qui ne peut jamais être abandonnée parce que nous avons toujours besoin d'espérance, surtout dans les moments de grande détresse.



Les vagues sous-jacentes sont agitées pour indiquer que le pèlerinage de la vie ne se fait pas toujours sur des eaux calmes. C'est pourquoi la partie inférieure de la croix est allongée et devient une ancre, qui domine le mouvement des vagues. L'ancre a souvent été utilisée comme métaphore de l'espoir.

Pilgrims of Hope

L'image montre que le chemin du pèlerin n'est pas individuel, mais communautaire et marqué par une vitalité croissante qui le conduit toujours plus près de la croix, qui se tourne vers l'humanité, ne la laissant pas seule, mais allant à sa rencontre pour lui offrir la certitude de sa présence et l'assurance de l'espérance.



El logotipo muestra cuatro figuras estilizadas para indicar la humanidad procedente de los cuatro puntos cardinales. Se abrazan para indicar la solidaridad y fraternidad que une a los pueblos.



La figura de la cabeza se aferra a la cruz. No es sólo el signo de la fe que abraza, sino también de la esperanza que nunca puede abandonarse, porque siempre tenemos necesidad de esperanza, especialmente en los momentos de mayor necesidad.



Las olas subyacentes están agitadas para indicar que la peregrinación de la vida no siempre transcurre por aguas tranquilas. Por eso la parte inferior de la Cruz se alarga convirtiéndose en un ancla, que domina el movimiento de las olas. El ancla se ha utilizado a menudo como metáfora de la esperanza.

Pilgrims of Hope

La imagen demuestra que el camino del peregrino no es individual, sino comunitario y marcado por una vitalidad creciente que lo lleva siempre más cerca de la cruz, que se vuelve hacia la humanidad, no dejándola sola, sino saliendo a su encuentro para ofrecerle la certeza de su presencia y la seguridad de la esperanza.



CHARISMS — CALLED & GIFTED DISCERNMENT PROCESS

What Are My Spiritual Gifts?

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” – St. Catherine of Siena

We receive many gifts of the Holy Spirit through our Baptism and Confirmation. We are taught about the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit which are sanctifying gifts given to help us grow in our faith. We also receive charisms which are gifts that we use for the good of others. The Holy Spirit works through us in our charisms to bring God’s love, mercy and healing to our family, friends, fellow parishioners and to members of the community.

Since charisms are the Holy Spirit working through us, we see results above and beyond our natural abilities. When we use our charisms, we feel energized, a joyful satisfaction, and that we have found our place. Using your charisms is a great remedy for burn out that many of us experience in our lives.

The charisms program involves a personal inventory quiz to help identify potential charisms, videos, a “gifts” interview to begin your discernment, tools to help with discernment and small groups to share your experiences together.

All charisms are evangelizing in their own way and are given to the baptized for the sake of Christ’s mission. Discerning your charisms will help you and our family of parishes as we unite to spread the news of Jesus’s love and mercy to everyone we encounter.

Discover how God has uniquely gifted you and how you can use those gifts to serve His purpose for your life.

Registration is now open, and you may register online at this link: <https://sarniacatholic.ca/> or by contacting the administrative assistants at the Family of Parishes office at 519-336-2653.

Schedule:

Parts I & III will take place Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 at Sacred Heart Church meeting room. Part II will take place at either Sacred Heart Parish or St. Michael Parish, your choice.

Part 1 - Introduction Workshop: 5 weeks (March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22)

Part II – Individual Gifts Interviews: 1 week (April 29)

Part III – Discernment in Depth: 4 weeks (May 6, 13, 20, 27)

The deadline to register for the Called and Gifted Discernment of Gifts Process is Monday, March 24th.

The course is offered through the work of the Catherine of Siena Institute. There is a materials fee of \$60.00 per participant which may be paid by cash, cheque, e-transfer or pay online/mobile using a credit card. For accounting purposes, please make cheques payable to St. Michael Church. If using e-transfer, use stmichaelbg@dol.ca. In the message field write “Called & Gifted”.

Please note: if the materials fee poses a financial burden for you, please let Christine Bresette know, and the fee will be confidentially paid for you. This is possible through the fundraising efforts of Marian Bart and the generosity of all the Family of Parishes councils of the Knights of Columbus.

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Bresette at christine.bresette@gmail.com or 519-464-2108.

A promotional graphic for the 'Charisms ~ Called and Gifted' workshop. It features a white dove in flight against a blue sky with white clouds. The text is arranged in a clear, readable layout. At the top, it says 'CHARISMS ~ CALLED AND GIFTED' in bold. Below that, it says 'Experience your Greatest Happiness by doing what God has Uniquely Gifted You to do!'. Then, it announces 'New workshops beginning March 25, 2025'. At the bottom, it says 'Scan QR code for details and to register online or call the parish office 519-336-2653'. A QR code is located on the left side of the bottom section.

CHARISMS ~ CALLED AND GIFTED
Experience your Greatest Happiness
by doing what God has Uniquely Gifted
You to do!

**New workshops beginning
March 25, 2025**

**Scan QR code for details
and to register online
or call the parish office
519-336-2653**

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL & FINANCE COUNCIL

Meet your Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes Parish Pastoral and Finance Council representatives. These volunteers are ready to answer your questions and to take your suggestions and concerns to their respective councils.

PASTOR: Rev. Brian Jane

PARISH	PASTORAL COUNCIL	FINANCE COUNCIL
	CHAIR: Marc Hammond CO-CHAIR: Regina Croskery	CO-CHAIR: Andrew Jones CO-CHAIR: Chris Treftlin
ST. MICHAEL	Marc Hammond hammondmarc@yahoo.ca	Kathryn Poole kathryncp84@gmail.com
OUR LADY OF MERCY		Chris Treftlin chris_treftlin@shineathome.com
ST. JOSEPH	John Spinozzi john.spinozzi@gmail.com	Chris Treftlin chris_treftlin@shineathome.com
ST. BENEDICT	Regina Croskery croskery2321@yahoo.ca Leo Mayer lmayer541022@yahoo.ca	Mike Tanner lmt1277@hotmail.com
SACRED HEART	John Roman jr.sbrcfp@gmail.com Linda Iacovella liniac64@gmail.com	Fred Oliver fredoliver10@icloud.com
QUEEN OF PEACE	Diane Rose: dianelwigchert@gmail.com	Aneta Fojna aneta_fojna@hotmail.com Mark Roehler 4markroehler@gmail.com
ST. THOMAS D'AQUIN	Doris Leblanc (Fr.) doris_leblanc1@hotmail.com Frank Vautour (Eng.) fmvautour@gmail.com Raymundo Mendez (Sp) jmendezraymundo@hotmail.com	Maurice Coulombe kepha@cogeco.ca

Choose Life

A CATHOLIC GUIDE FOR
END-OF-LIFE ISSUES

Choose Life is a new brochure meant to help parishioners understand that life is a gift from conception to natural death. It explains why the Church promotes Palliative Care and says 'no' to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

To see the brochure go to this link www.dol.ca/choose-life .
Copies of the brochure will be available in our parishes soon.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE ~ MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE

St. Joseph CWL



MEMORIAL ANGEL TREE
Remembering
"Loved Ones"
And
Supporting
St. Joseph Hospice
Palliative Care
Sarnia

St. Joseph Hospice received \$1000 from
the Christmas Angel Tree fundraiser
at St. Joseph Parish.

Presenting the cheque are members of
St. Joseph Catholic Women's League.



CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH





FAMILY OF PARISHES JUBILEE LENTEN MISSION

Following up from last Sunday's homilies on the topic of the 2025 Jubilee, we are pleased to announce that our Family of Parishes will host a Lenten Jubilee Mission on the dates and locations as follows:

- Monday, March 31 at St. Michael
- Tuesday, April 1 at St. Benedict
- Thursday, April 3 at Sacred Heart

All events will begin at 6pm and include Mass, Confession and a talk on a particular Jubilee theme. The mission will qualify the attendees to obtain a Plenary Indulgence since the requirements for an indulgence will be met, such as praying for the Holy Father's intentions and the reception of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes 2025 Vacation Bible School

The Great Journey with Jesus.



Your children will experience an exciting 5-day journey through the Life of Jesus. They will travel through the cycles of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter, through music, faith, games, crafts and snack.

Journey Date: Monday August 4th to Friday August 8th
from 9am-12pm

Place of Exploration: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Travelers: Children entering grades 1 to 5 in September of 2025.

Cost and registration will be announced at a later date.

ST. PATRICK DAY CARDS & GAMES NIGHT

Friday, March 14th
7pm - 10pm
Sacred Heart Parish Hall



The Family of Parishes Social Team invites you to an evening of cards and board games on Friday, March 14th at Sacred Heart.

- ♦ Come out for a fun night of cards, games
- ♦ Bring your cards or your favorite game and a snack to share
- ♦ Come with a group or join a table
- ♦ Play your favorite game or learn a new one
- ♦ No cost, no registration required, open to all.
- ♦ Cash bar - wine & beer
- ♦ Coffee, tea, pop, water - no charge

JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

I hope the month of January was filled with God's blessings and warmth. It certainly was a chilly month! January brought the return of the children to their classrooms after the Christmas Break, and I visited the rest of the Grade 8 classes to share information about our Family of Parishes' Confirmation Preparation Program which is beginning in April. Registration is open until February 14th, 2025. Registration forms and information can be found on our website at sarniacatholic.ca and in the bulletin.



The month of January welcomed KinderSTART events at all of our Catholic elementary schools. It was wonderful to meet the families whose little ones will be entering Junior Kindergarten at our Family of Parishes schools: Gregory A. Hogan, Holy Trinity, Sacred Heart, St. Anne, St. Matthew, St. Michael. I also attended the Conseil scolaire catholique Providence open house for our Catholic French language school St. Thomas d'Aquin.

As our Family of Parishes' preparation program for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion begins, please pray for our children who are getting ready to receive their Sacraments this Spring. May they embrace God's love and find peace and joy in His mercy and grace. I pray for God to bring you comfort and fulfillment during this winter season.



St. Clair Catholic
District School Board

Hiring the Position of Adult Supervisor

Position:	Adult Supervisor (multiple positions)
Posting #:	3916824
Date Posted:	January 15, 2025
Closing Date:	January 21, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Employment Status:	Casual, Call-in
Work Hours Schedule:	Casual, Call-in (schedule to be determined by school Principal on an as needed basis) or 1 hour per day (11:20am to 12:20pm)
Location:	Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sarnia
Salary Range:	\$17.20 per hour
Start Date:	A.S.A.P.

JOB POSTING

If Interested

Send resume quoting posting number 3916824 in cover letter through Apply To Education - <https://sccdsb.simplification.com/>

Responsibilities

Under the general supervision of the School Principal, the individual will:

- Ensure student safety by supervising students and reinforcing appropriate student behaviour and the school code of conduct throughout the school day.
- Contribute to general student welfare by providing the appropriate level of intervention with visitors, guests, and unwelcome persons.
- Report unsafe conditions indoors or out, involving persons or property.
- Work within the policies and procedures of the School Board.
- Follow emergency procedures and safety protocols.
- Assume any other duties as assigned by the Principal or designate.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

In November, the **Social Justice & Missions Team** disbursed donations for the following **MISSIONS:** Rayjon Children's Nutrition Program & Eye Glass Program, Chalice Canada, Whitehorse Diocesan Mission, Catholic Missions in Canada & Don Bosco Mission. In this newsletter, we feature our **Rayjon** support. Other charities will be featured in future newsletters. We want to thank our faithful donors who help make all of these donations possible. Each of these charities are able to continue their good works because of kind, generous people like you. You are in our prayers.



Rayjon children's Nutrition Program

Despite the ongoing political instability and inflation crisis in Haiti, the programs continue to make a significant impact. The rising cost of living has exacerbated childhood malnutrition, with 48 infants currently enrolled in the nutrition program. Many families fleeing violence in Port-au-Prince have sought refuge in Cap-Haïtien, often arriving with nothing, but the clothes on their backs, and in urgent need of assistance. Marie and her daughter, nutrition program participants pictured above, are an example of this. The center has been a vital resource, providing life-saving nutrition and support to these displaced families as well as filling the needs of families native to Cap Haïtien.



Rayjon Eyeglass Program

In November 2024, 21 Rayjon volunteers went to the Christian Medical Society in Honduras to provide vision care for marginalized communities in Honduras. While there, the team served 655 patients, referred 76 patients for further ophthalmic treatment at the CCSH Clinic in El Progreso and another 7 patients will have glasses made at this clinic as Rayjon did not have a prescription match in their inventory. Even though they faced unplanned circumstances when Hurricane Sara delayed their return home, they made the best of the situation while awaiting a rescue flight home. The extended stay in Honduras due to the hurricane and some other unplanned circumstances resulted in a significant trip cost increase that was managed with helpful donations from the Petrolia Lion's Club and the Social Justice Team of the Bluewater Roman Catholic Parishes. All in all, this was an incredibly successful eyeglass trip. If you have used eyeglasses that you would like to donate to the Rayjon Eyeglass Trips, you can give them to any Rayjon member or drop them at any Family of Parish church. You can also drop them at any Optometric Office labelled for Rayjon. Thank you for your continued support for the Rayjon Eyeglass Trips.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

The Social Justice & Missions Team is active throughout the year keeping parishioners informed on activities and programs which fall under the Social Justice umbrella. They include Development & Peace Campaigns, Migrant Worker Ministry activities, Truth & Reconciliation information/updates and efforts on behalf of the Homeless and Affordable Housing Team. Updates on these various activities are below. Anyone interested in being a part of the Social Justice & Missions Team, you are most welcome. Please contact Vera Lawlor at vllawlor@cogeco.ca. It is our desire to have a representative from each parish in our Family of Parishes on this very important outreach ministry.

Development & Peace



REAPING OUR RIGHTS

To learn about the 2024 Fall Action campaign or to sign the petition online visit www.devp.org. **Stay tuned for the 2025 Share Lent Campaign.**

If you would to help the D&P team, please contact Greg Stewart at stew-grego@gmail.com or 519-869-4262.

Register and view the full schedule of **events for 2025** at: [**Reel Justice Film Festival**](#)

A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.



Migrant Worker Ministry



The Migrant Worker Ministry will be meeting in February to plan for the 2025 April to November season of serving our migrant sisters and brothers. On December 22, 150 Caribbean, Latin & Thai workers were treated to a Christmas Dinner, music and games put on by the North Lambton Health Centre Migrant Workers Project at the Forest Legion. Members of the Migrant Worker Ministry were on hand to help at this fun event. We look forward to seeing our migrant friends when they return in the spring. We are currently seeking funds to support our monthly Spanish masses and dinners for 2025. If you wish to make a

donation to this ministry, you can donate via our Family of Parishes online giving (clearly marked for Migrant Worker Ministry) or make a cheque to the Migrant Worker Ministry and drop in the collection basket at your church or mail to Lambton County Catholic Family of Parishes, c/o Connie Burns, 68 Union St., Forest, Ontario N0N 1J0.

To volunteer or provide baking or other food for this ministry, please contact Vera Lawlor at vllawlor@cogeco.ca. Bring your toonies or any donation to church the weekend of February 15/16 for Toonie Sunday Collection in support of Migrant Ministry Workers.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

Christmas Dinner for Caribbean, Latin & Thai migrant workers



*Volunteers for Migrant
Workers Christmas
Dinner*



Homeless Affordable Housing Ministry

Everyone is invited to join the HAH Ministry for a presentation by **Myles Vanni** from the **Inn of the Good Shepherd**, on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at St. Benedict Church at 7 p.m. Myles has a wealth of information on supports for the disadvantaged and unhoused people in our community and what we can do to support their efforts to help make life a little better for all people in our neighbourhoods.

For information or participation on the Homeless Affordable Housing Ministry, contact John Barnfield at barnfield@cogeco.ca.

“We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked, and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for is the greatest poverty.” MOTHER TERESA

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

Pikangikum Christmas Project 2024



(letter from Missionary, Colleen Estes)

Dear Friends with Big Hearts,

This year, over 350 presents were delivered to families in Pikangikum who had losses this past year. Thanks to you who shopped, wrapped, packed, transported, provided for and prayed, and to Nick Backlund (my coworker), Ajay Owen (high school student) and Aaron McGill and his family (ministering in my absence in Pikangikum) who organized and delivered them!

I would like to share what Nick wrote in his prayer update:

“My favourite memory of this time was delivering to a wonderful 11 year old girl. She saw us in the driveway and was waiting for us at the door with a big smile. The joy that radiated from the girl was incredible because you could see the appreciation and love of Jesus in her eyes as we came bearing gifts to her home.” (The girl had lost her older sister.. almost 12 years old.. to suicide in February).

“I am thankful to those who took the time and gave money and energy to buy and send presents to these families. Some people think it is a small thing and makes no impact, but I beg to differ. When you value people, and especially children, you take value in the heart of God. People in Pikangikum are feeling the love of Christ because of your partnership and God remembers these things.”



SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS

While the team was trudging through the snow and up rickety steps, and I was continuing to heal from hip surgery at my friend's apartment in Rainy River, I got a call from a grandma in Pikangikum. She had lost her beloved husband to suicide in April.



"This morning, I was crying and talking to God. I told Him, 'Brian and I would have been shopping and buying Christmas presents for our grandchildren. Where am I going to get presents for my grandkids?' Just then, I heard a knock on the door and 'Merry Christmas.' There were your friends with presents for me and my children and my grandkids!"

In past years, I have known where it is ok to take pictures and where it isn't appropriate, and because the team were strangers to most of the people, they didn't feel comfortable taking many pictures. I appreciate their sensitivity. But they said there was lots of joy on kids' faces!

A man who lost his five year old grandson to drowning and three days later, lost his wife to illness, posted on Facebook:

"Very thoughtful of Colleen Estes and the church that sent these gifts to me and my family. I'm very thankful, grateful, and kind of overwhelmed by it."

Yup, this says it all!!! God bless you!!

In Christ, Colleen Estes

Living Hope Native Ministries

www.lhnm.org

PS – I'm having knee replacement January 10. Please pray for a successful surgery and quick recovery... I want to get home to Pikangikum!



Nick's Christian Ed

Grades 1-4 Class

Nick wrote in his Christmas letter, "I was teaching about how God created us in His image and how God took His time and passionately formed us with many different talents and personalities. One little girl came up to me one day and asked me "Is God really real?" I said "He sure is and He loves you greatly." She responded, "Yeah, I like that...I believe you!" I walked away from that and thought about it for the past couple weeks. How we make faith complicated. We tell ourselves we need to do this and get to this point to be faithful. But the heart of a child is a heart close to God which speaks, "Yeah, you are so real. Yeah, I can believe in that." Simple faith with a wonderful love of the Father. That girl taught me something. That I can still have that same simple faith. "Yeah, you are real and you love me." I can respond with those same words "Yeah...I like that!" My prayer after thinking about it is this...Lord, let me never lose that precious wonder of knowing you."

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS



The information provided in articles written for 2024 Family of Parishes monthly newsletters brings us to a time where we will explore some aspects of local Indigenous peoples. The information was taken from a guide developed through collaboration with local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, with the goal of helping those in the community form a better understanding and connection with each other. For more information/details, search 'Indigenous' at www.chatham-kent.ca.

Regional and Cultural differences

There are 4 distinct First Nation communities within Sarnia/Lambton/Chatham-Kent. They are Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation and Bkejwanong First Nation, which are members of the Three Fires Confederacy. The fourth is the Lenape Nation at Moraviantown. Each community is a part of a distinct nation that has a unique culture, tradition, belief, history, political affiliation, experience and perspective. There are also many different people from other bands dispersed among the four communities.

1. Wiiwkwedong (Kettle Point) and Aazhoodenaang (Stony Point) – located on Lake Huron in Bosanquet Township and members of the Anishinaabeg Nation.
2. Aamjiwnaang First Nation – located on the St. Clair River, in the city limits of Sarnia.
3. Bkejwanong First Nation (Walpole Island) – unceded territory located near Wallaceburg, at the mouth of the St. Clair River – is comprised of six islands that are occupied by the Ojibwe, Potawatomi and Odawa people.
4. Delaware Nation at Moraviantown – located on the southern shores of the Thames River, near Thamesville – Home of the Lenape People of the Delaware Nation, called the grandfather nation by the other Anishinaabeg nations because they are the original people from the Atlantic seaboard.

Fiddle and Sash Metis Community – located in Lambton/Kent counties. They are not affiliated with any political Metis group and were formed as a strictly social group in order to celebrate Metis culture.

Look for more information on local Indigenous People in upcoming Family of Parishes newsletters.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

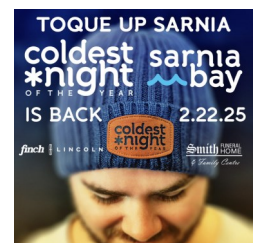
Brrrr.....It's The Coldest Night of the Year

On Saturday, February 22nd, two members of the Homeless & Affordable Housing Team will be walking for the Coldest Night of the Year event held in Sarnia. Vera Lawlor will be walking to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat Sarnia/Lambton has been building homes for families in our community since 1944. They believe that access to safe, decent and affordable housing is a basic human right that should be available to all.

Jim Curran will be walking to raise funds for River City Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Sarnia. River City offers safe sanctuary, food, showers and clothing to people in need. They have the opportunity to enable homeless people to rise up, dream again of possibilities and reach their potential.

To support either walkers, Vera or Jim, go to The [Coldest Night of the Year 2025 website](#) and click on [Donate](#). You can find either walker by typing their name in the box.

Thank you for helping these 2 organizations provide comfort, love and support for those in need.





St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

February 2025 NEWSLETTER

All information about the St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus activities can be found on the **Sarnia Blue-water Roman Catholic Family of Parishes** web page at [St. Benedict KofC](http://St.BenedictKofC)

Follow us on Facebook at [Knights of Columbus St. Benedict Council 11164 Sarnia](https://www.facebook.com/Knights of Columbus St. Benedict Council 11164 Sarnia)

Join Us Today

Become an online Knights of Columbus member for free. Visit KofC.org/joinus
Enter code **BLESSEDMCGIVNEY** for a FREE one-year membership.

KofC 50-50 ON-LINE Raffle

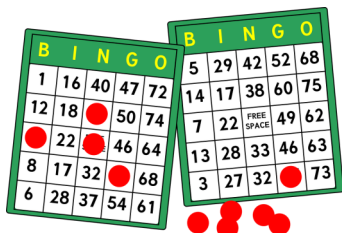


Another KofC 50-50 raffle is ready to go in support of local Sarnia and Ontario Charities. To purchase your tickets from the St. Benedict KofC, click on the following link :

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/190>

Do not delay to be eligible for the early bird draw of \$500 on February 14th. After the early bird draw, your ticket is still valid for the **Grand Prize** drawn on April 27th, 2025. Please share with your family, friends and neighbours.

KofC Meat Bingos



Come and join us every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at OLM hall (corner of Christina St. & London Rd.). Bingos start at 7 PM, but come early to buy your cards and get set up. Food and refreshments are available. Please bring a canned good in support of our local food banks.

All proceeds help support Knights of Columbus charities.

He is Risen Car/Fridge Magnets

We have a supply of "**He is Risen**" magnets that can be displayed either on your car or fridge during the Easter season. The cost is \$10 each and magnets are available at the parish office, 1011 Oak Avenue, Sarnia.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

St. Benedict Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League are offering our Annual Pancake Supper.



WHEN: Shrove Tuesday, March 4th between 4:30 – 6:30 PM

WHERE: St. Benedict Church Hall, Lorne Ave., Sarnia

MENU: Pancakes, sausage, desert, juice, coffee and tea

COST: \$10 Adults, \$5 kids 12 & under \$25 Family of 4 +

All proceeds to KofC Activities.



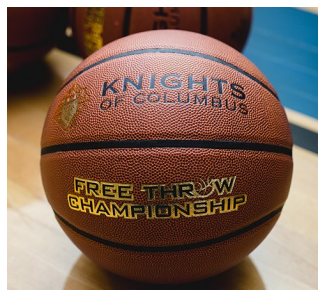


St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

New Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent

We wish to announce that Cherian Manathara has been assigned as the Knights of Columbus insurance agent for the Sarnia/Lambton area. For all your KofC insurance inquiries or needs, Cherian is available to you and may be contacted at:

647 444-9581 (cell) or by e-mail at cherian.manathara@kofc.org



Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Competition

The Knights of Columbus councils in Sarnia-Lambton held their annual basketball free throw competition at various schools in the area on **Saturday, January 25th**. Kids competed within their own gender and age group and progress from the Council, District and Region levels of competition. The results of the competition were not available at the time of the newsletter being printed. There will be more information to follow in the March newsletter. ***Good luck to all our participants.***

MARIAN SHRINE PILGRIMAGE – PORTUGAL, FRANCE & SPAIN

2025 is the JUBILEE Year ...

Join us now for a trip of a lifetime and experience the incredible Pilgrimage to **Fatima (Portugal), Lourdes (France) and Santiago de Compostela (Spain)** under the spiritual leadership of Fr. Jose Montepeque, retired associate pastor of Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes to places of historical and biblical importance

September 22nd, 2025 to October 3rd, 2025.

It will be an enriching journey that will deepen your understanding and strengthen your Christian faith. Daily mass will be held in some of the most beautiful cathedrals and lots more.

For further details, contact Irene at kohirene88@gmail.com, or call 519-464-2044

Sarnia Bluewater Roman Catholic Family of Parishes 2025 Vacation Bible School

The Great Journey with Jesus.



Your children will experience an exciting 5-day journey through the Life of Jesus. They will travel through the cycles of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter, through music, faith, games, crafts and snack.

Journey Date: Monday August 4th to Friday August 8th from 9am - 12pm

Place of Exploration: Sacred Heart Parish Hall

Travelers: Children entering grades 1 to 5 in September of 2025.

Cost and registration will be announced at a later date.

THE CORDIAL CATHOLIC

WITH KEITH LITTLE



**JOIN A PILGRIMAGE TO
NORTHERN FRANCE LED BY
KEITH LITTLE WITH THE
CORDIAL CATHOLIC &
FR. JOSEPH OGHENEJABOR**

**TRAVEL DATES:
AUG 12 - 20, 2025**

**GREAT SAINTS
OF NORTHERN
FRANCE**



TRINITY

TOUR TRAVELS

JOURNEYS YOU WILL TREASURE FOREVER



Join The Cordial Catholic's, Keith Little, and Father Joseph Oghenejabor on an incredible pilgrimage to experience The Great Saints of Northern France! Trinity Tour Travels will take you on a journey through the heart of France's rich Catholic heritage, and introduce you to some of the greatest Saints in history. Explore the Cathedral de Notre Dame de Paris, where we will see parts of The Crown of Thorns and the True Cross. Marvel at the iconic Mont-Saint-Michel, where the abbey rises majestically above shifting tides. Walk in the footsteps of St. Joan of Arc in Rouen, where her legacy as a courageous warrior and faithful saint lives on. Retreat to the home of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and explore the city that deeply impacted the young Saint's life.



\$5,500 USD (\$7920.96 CAD) Package Includes:

- 9 days / 7 nights
- Round Trip Airfare
- 4-Star Hotels (rated by country standard)
- Double Occupancy
- Ground Transportation
- Gratuities (main guides, drivers and porters)
- Daily Mass
- Catholic Tour Guides
- All Admission Fees
- All Breakfasts/Most Dinners

Questions?

Contact Kayla Banning at
Kayla@trinitytourtravels.com

Scan code to learn more and register.



Jackpot Time Bingo in Support of St. Joseph Church

Jackpot Time has been serving up gaming in the city of Sarnia for more than 30 years and has raised over \$15 million dollars for regional charities. Jackpot Time located at 825 Upper Canada Drive provides a full-service entertainment experience that's relevant to our community today.

St. Joseph Church partners with Jackpot Time Bingo in Sarnia which has allowed us to raise money to assist with repairs, maintenance and HVAC equipment expenses in our parish.

If you are interested in what Jackpot City has to offer, please go to their Facebook page at: Jackpot Time Sarnia or visit their website at: <https://sarnia.jackpottime.ca>

Thank you to the supporters of Jackpot Time Bingo.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

William E. Prentice
Council 1429

393 Christina St. N

Samia, ON N7T 5V9

[OUR LADY OF MERCY](#)

[SACRED HEART](#)

[ST. JOSEPH](#)

[ST. GEORGE \[Ukrainian\]](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT COUNCIL'S PARTICIPATION

IN THE 50/50 RAFFLE.

Scan the QR Code in the poster below, click on the poster or [click here](#).
Council will receive a portion of the profits.

["Join the Knights
\(Click here\)"](#)

For 'preferred council number'
'enter '1429'.

For 'member referral number' en-
ter your sponsor's membership
number or leave it blank

MEETINGS: 1ST Tuesday

6:15 pm - Officers meeting
(members welcome)

7 pm - Membership

8 pm - Social hour

GK1429@ontariokofc.ca

Norman Monteiro
[519-542-7528](tel:519-542-7528)

[Web-page at Parish](#)

[Facebook](#)



[DONATE](#)



Ontario State Council
Knights of Columbus

\$100 for
300
Tickets

\$50 for
125
Tickets

\$20 for
40
Tickets

\$10 for
10
Tickets

**50/50
RAFFLE**

License #: RAF1441633

Grand Prize Draw
April 27, 2025

Early Bird Draw

February 14, 2025 at 9:00 am
\$500 Cash Prize

In support of the charitable works of the Knights of Columbus
William E. Prentice Council 1429



Scan the
QR code
to buy
tickets

or visit the link below

<https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/188>



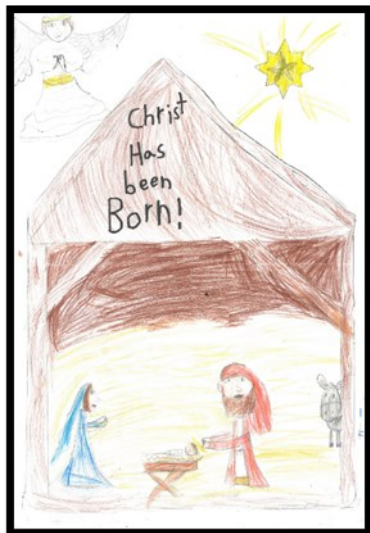
Ontario Problem Gaming Helpline (1- 888 - 230 - 3505) www.connexontario.ca
www.ontariokofc.ca | www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/



KofC - COUNCIL 1429 - KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

Poster Contest

The five winning posters



A Roaring Success!

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Lidia and Dino De Carolis and Peter Stoesser, we have once again wrapped up this incredibly popular event with flying colors! ✨ Ten talented winners from Sacred Heart, St. Anne's, and Gregory Hogan schools have been identified and will be receiving a gift card and a Knights of Columbus Certificate. 🏆 🌟

But that's not all! Five of their outstanding posters are advancing to the next level of the contest, where they will compete for even greater glory. 🏠 🚀

We are eagerly looking forward to expanding our reach and getting even more schools to join in the fun next year. Let's make it bigger and better together!

COUNCIL NEWS

Coats For Kids: Thanks to the recent donation of \$2,000, council was able to donate four more boxes of coats to the St Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the needy in the city.

Deacon Lyle SOUPERbowl Challenge – 2025 – St Joseph's Parish Hall. Sunday, February 09 after the 11 am mass.

Pancake Tuesday – Sacred Heart Church hall. Tuesday evening, March 04.

Spring Dinner Dance – Coming soon – look out for announcements.



Join Us in Thanksgiving!

On Sunday May, 4th, 2025
11:00 AM Mass

St. John de Brebeuf & Companions Church
67 Main St. E, Kingsville, Ontario

As we honour Father Rick Janisse
celebrating two memorable milestones.

His 50th Anniversary of Ordination (May 10)

And his 75th Birthday (May 12)

Join us for best wishes and an informal gathering following the Mass.
Please RSVP by April 4, 2025, to: rjanisse@dol.ca

Let us come together to make this a truly memorable day!

FAMILY DAY WITH BLESSED CARLO: CELEBRATING THE 1ST MILLENNIAL SAINT

"To always be close to Jesus, that's my life plan" Blessed Carlo

To mark this joyous occasion, the YYAFM Office, along with several Families of Parishes, will be hosting a special Family Celebration—and you're invited!

VIDEO GAMES, FAMILY PRAYER, FOOD, FUN & MORE!!

Sunday, April 27 from 3-5:30PM

4 Church locations:

- 1) Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Windsor
- 2) Holy Family, London
- 3) Our Lady of Help Christians, Wallaceburg
- 4) St. George, London

REGISTER NOW AT :
[BlessedCarloFamilyDay](https://BlessedCarloFamilyDay.com)

Question? Contact ccoyne@dol.ca

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<https://sarnia.jackpottime.ca>

Thank you to the supporters of
Jackpot Time Bingo.



London Diocesan Council of The
Catholic Women's League of Canada



Invites you to Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year Lenten Retreat



Where: St. Benedict's
Catholic Church, 1011 Oak Ave., Sarnia, On N7S 1J4

When: Saturday March 15, 2025

Lunch: \$15.00 per person

Agenda:

- 8:30 am – Registration
- 9:00 am – Mass
- 9:45 am – Social Time
- 10:15 am – Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
- 10:25 am – Speaker: Laura Lee, Pastoral Minister, Elgin Roman Catholic Family of Parishes: *Pilgrims of Hope*
- 12:30 pm – Lunch
- 1:30 pm – Speaker: Christine Bresette, Faith Pillar Chair, St. Michael CWL Council, Bright's Grove: *Mary's Perfect Yes*
- 2:30 pm – Final Blessing

Register with you: parish council by March 1st.



ST. MICHAEL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 9th

AFTER 10:30AM MASS



Scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, pancakes,
home made baked beans, toast, juice,
coffee, tea and some goodies.

\$10 - Adult; \$5 child (12 and under)

\$25-family (2 adults, 2 children+)

The St. Michael Knights of Columbus
breakfast brunch of November 24th
was an outstanding success.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way
to make it so!"

QUEEN OF PEACE / SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Breakfast



(Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Coffee, Tea, Juice)

Sunday February 23, 2025

10:00 am – 11:30am

Church Rectory

\$10.00

by The Ladies Auxiliary



DEACON LYLE

SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th - 12PM

ST. JOSEPH PARISH HALL

Donations of soup for the competition and /or other items are welcome.

Contact Norm Monteiro for more information:

gk1429@ontariokofc.ca

FAMILY MOVIE MATINEE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

2:30pm

Sarnia Library Theater



REGISTER:

www.sarniacatholic.ca

or call the parish office

519-336-2653

FAMILY DAY - FAMILY SKATE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025

3pm to 4pm

PAT STAPLETON ARENA

with hot chocolate & cookies

at the arena from 3:30pm to 4:30pm



REGISTER :

WWW.SARNIACATHOLIC.CA

or call the

PARISH OFFICE 519-336-2653