



**Sarnia Bluewater
Roman Catholic
Family of Parishes**

**JANUARY 2025
JANVIER 2025**

Good News Monthly Bonnes Nouvelles Mensuelles



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2025 Wishes & Resolutions
- Financial Update
- Jubilee 2025
- Social Justice
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Jenn's Monthly Happenings
- KinderSTART
- Bible Studies
- Parish News
- Knights of Columbus
- Upcoming Events

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www.sarniacatholic.ca

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

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION WITH MARY ~ REV. EDWARD OKORIE CSSp

The name "January" comes from the Roman god Janus, the god with two faces, one looking to the past and the other looking to the future. This is indeed a time to look back at the year that has just ended and to look forward to the new year ahead of us. How did I spend this one year of my life that has just passed? Did I use it to advance my goals and objectives in life? Did I use it to enhance the purpose of my existence? Could I have done better last year in the way I invested my time between the demands of work, family, friends and society, and the demands of my spiritual life? What things did I achieve last year and what did I fail to achieve? How can I consolidate the achievements of last year while reversing the failures and losses in this new year? Through soul searching questions like these we find that a review of the past year naturally leads to setting goals and resolutions for the new year. There are people who tell you that there is no point making new year resolutions. Do not believe them. We must set goals and make resolutions as a necessary conclusion to our review of the past year. And we do need to review our lives from year to year because, as Socrates says, the unexamined life is not worth living.

Today's newspapers are full of individual and collective new year resolutions. Most of those, however, are not resolutions at all but only wishes. What is the difference between a resolution and a wish? A wish identifies a goal one wants to reach, a resolution specifies the steps one will take to reach it. A wish says this is where I want to be, a resolution says this is the road I will take, this is what I will do to get there. The wishful person says "I want to pass my exams this year" and the resolved person says "I will devote an extra hour to my studies everyday in order to pass my exams." The wishful person says "I will have more peace and love in my family this year" and the resolved person says "I will spend more time with my family at table instead of rushing off to the TV, so that we get to know and understand ourselves better." The wishful person says "I will live a life of union with God this year" and the resolved person says "I will set aside this time everyday to pray and hear God's word." The difference between wishing and resolving is: are we prepared to do what it takes to make our dreams come true, are we prepared to pay the price?

The gospel presents Mary to us as a model of that new life in Christ that all of us wish for ourselves in the new year. There we see that Mary was prepared to do something to realize this goal. What did she do? We read that the shepherds, when they went to adore the Child Jesus in the manger, told all that the angels had said to them. ***"But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart"*** (Luke 2:19). Again after the boy Jesus was found in the Temple, we are told that ***"His mother treasured all these things in her heart"*** (Luke 2:51). Mary was a woman who valued the word of God, who treasured it and made time to meditate and ponder it. It is true that the holiness of Mary is attributed to the grace of God, but this should not make us forget that she needed to make an effort in order to cooperate with the grace of God. She pondered the word of God in order to discern what God was saying to her at every stage in her life as the handmaid of God.

The two examples above of Mary pondering the word of God, namely, after the visit of the shepherds and after the finding in the temple, show that Mary found the word of God both in divine revelation (the angels' words to the shepherds) and in her own experiences (her encounter with her son in the temple). Similarly, God speaks to us today through divine revelation (e.g. the Bible, the teaching and preaching of the Church) as well as through our personal experiences, if only we made time to reflect on them as Mary did. Whatever the situation in which we find ourselves - a hardship, a disappointment, a decision to make - God has a solution, an answer that is right for us. We tell God about it in prayer but we also listen to what God has to tell us about it. Prayer is a conversation with God but sometimes all we do is pick up the phone, read out the list of our problems to God and drop the phone without listening to hear what God has to say to us. Let us today resolve to listen more to the voice of God, to treasure God's word and ponder it in our hearts. Then shall we be able to realize our new year resolution of a new life in union with God.

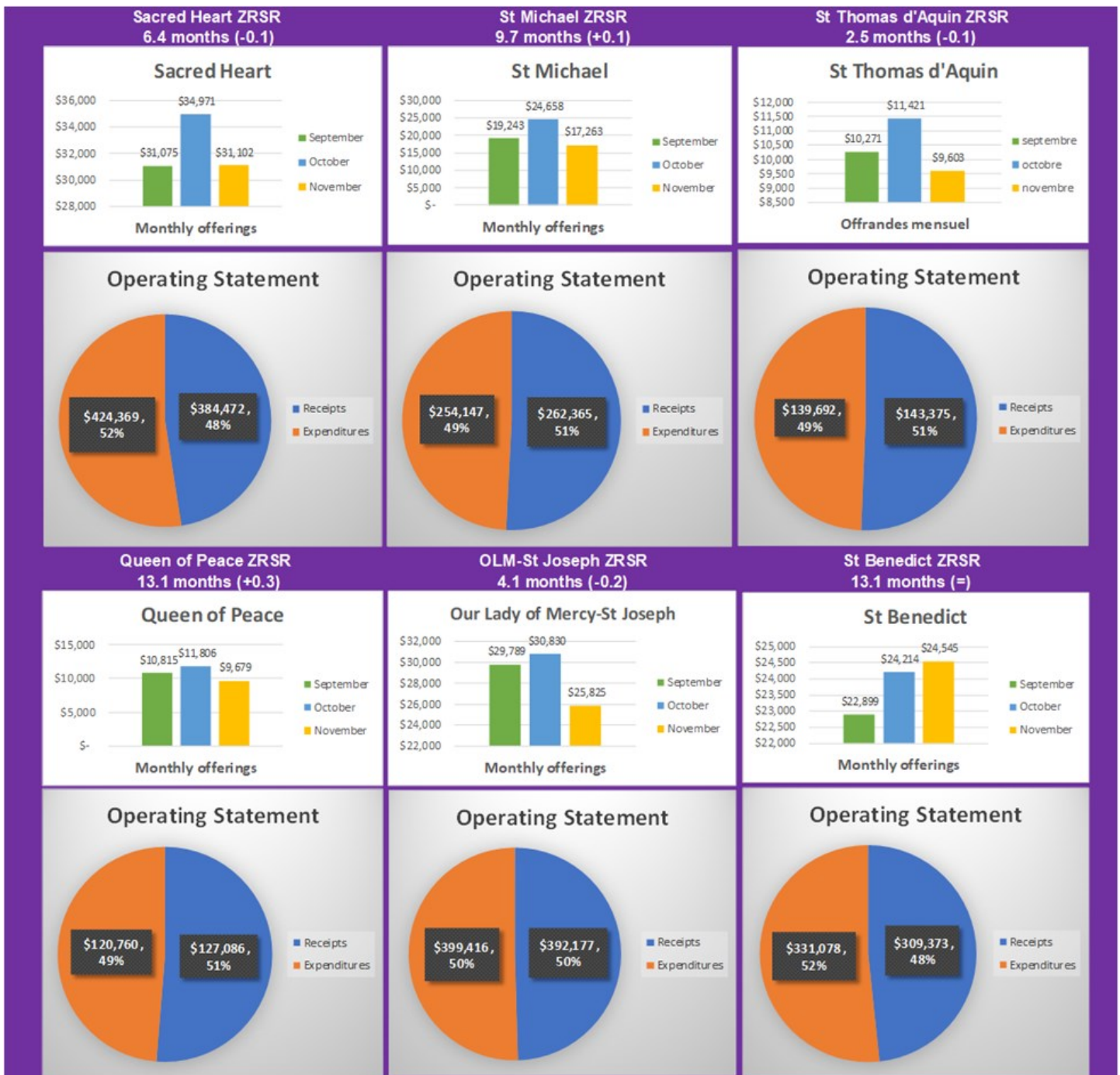
RENDER UNTO CAESAR

A FINANCIAL COLUMN

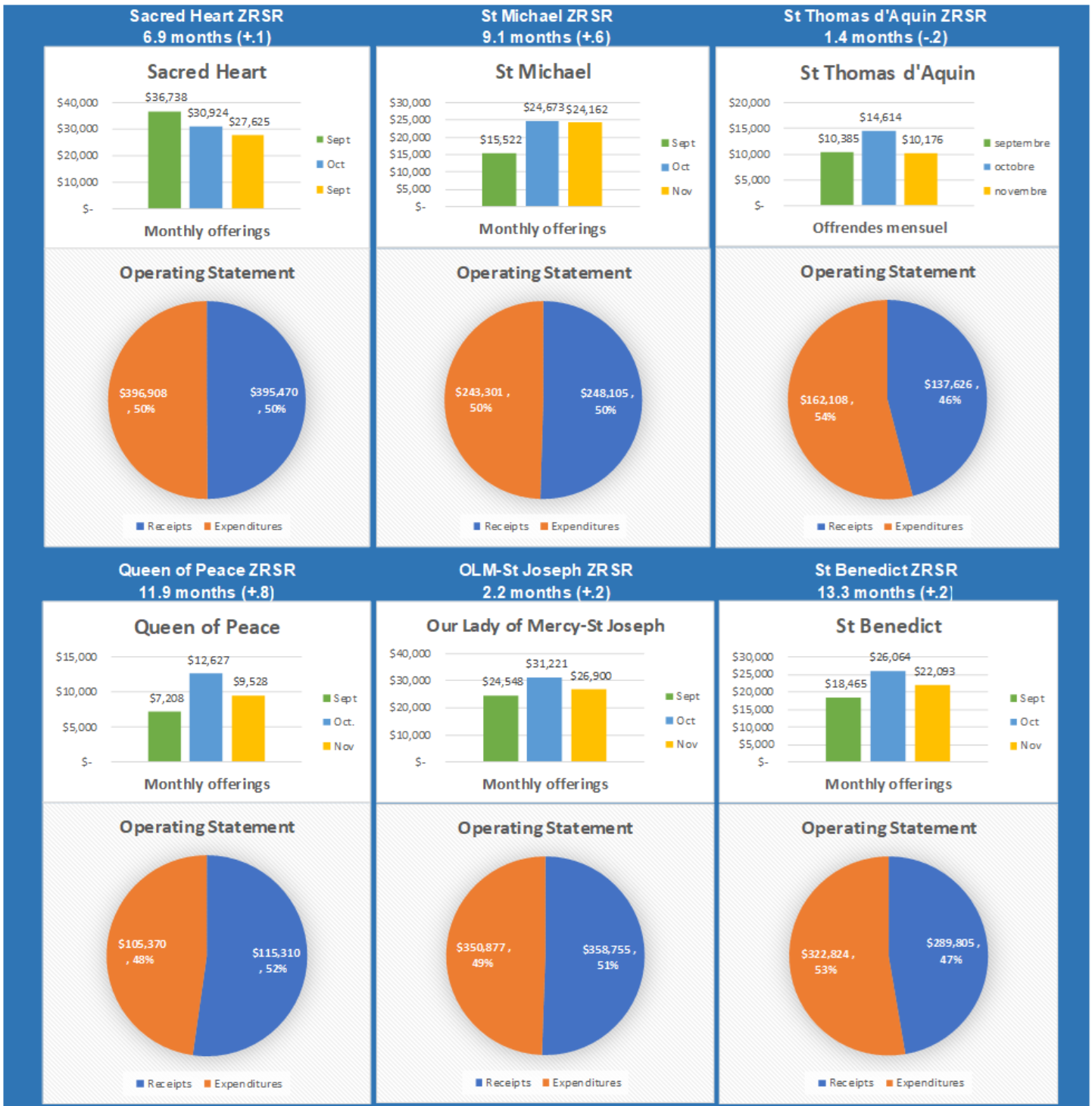
Welcome to the first edition of 2025. This month, I thought it could be of interest to compare this month's dashboard to the one from a year ago. The first dashboard with the purple border is the most current one (November 2024). The one with the blue border is from November 2023.

The most telling numbers are the ZRSR (Zero Revenue Solvency Ratio). This ratio indicates how long a parish could stay open without any donations. 4 of our parishes have increased their solvency year-over-year. The exceptions to this positive trend are Sacred Heart and St. Benedict Parishes. A funding appeal was made at Sacred Heart in December and we are planning to engage St. Benedict parishioners in January.

NOVEMBER 2024



NOVEMBER 2024



St Benedict Church Bingo

A change of the guard for St. Benedict bingo team occurred in September. Karen Gallagher has agreed to co-ordinate a new team of volunteers to raise funds for the Parish. St Benedict parishioners have raised \$608,000 through Bingo activities since 1992. Bob Davies was the coordinator from 1992 until 1999. Charlie Maxwell took over these responsibilities until this past August.

I wish to extend my thanks to Bob's family and to Charlie for their devotion to their faith and community. Due to their efforts, this parish is in a better fiscal position. We are wishing the new team of volunteers similar success and we greatly appreciate their donation of time.



JUBILEE 2025

Pilgrims of Hope



The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has decreed that the Jubilee Year was inaugurated on December 24, 2024, the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, with the opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican.

On Sunday December 29, 2024 at 11:00 am, the feast of the Holy Family, the opening of the Jubilee was celebrated in all dioceses. The solemn opening of the Jubilee Year took place at the celebration of the Eucharist at which the diocesan bishop presides in the cathedral church, mother of all the churches of the diocese.

This was the only Eucharist to mark the opening of the Jubilee and was celebrated in the cathedral. The opening Mass for the Diocese of London was celebrated by Bishop Fabbro at 11:00 am on Sunday, December 29th and can be streamed at www.lncc.dol.ca.

Luce, the official mascot of the Jubilee 2025

During a press conference on October 28, 2024 Archbishop Rino Fisichella officially presented the mascot of the 2025 Jubilee, "Luce".

This character, designed by the illustrator Simone Legno, was designed with the intention of reflecting pop culture, popular among young people, and brings with it a message of hope and welcome.

Luce is a pilgrim dressed as a typical traveler: a yellow anorak to protect herself from the elements, dirty boots that bear witness to the path she has already travelled, a missionary cross around her neck and the pilgrim's staff in her hand. Particularly evocative are Luce's eyes, which shine with an intense light: they symbolize the hope that is born in the heart of every pilgrim, and reflect the desire for spirituality and connection with the divine. They act as a reminder of the universal message of peace and brotherhood. The choice of a mascot like Luce is part of a broader context, aimed at reaching new generations and promoting intergenerational dialogue. The mascot not only represents the Jubilee, but is also a symbol of community, of welcome and of sharing. She is accompanied by a pet dog named Santino and three friends named Fe, Xin, and Sky. and her guardian angel.



Luce will also be the mascot of the Holy See's pavilion at Expo 2025, which will take place in Osaka, Japan, from April to October, 2025. The pavilion—which will be inside Italy's national pavilion—will have the theme "Beauty brings hope," and display the 17th-century painting The Entombment of Christ by Caravaggio—the only one of his works housed in the Vatican Museums.

Blessing your home



20+C+M+B+25

For centuries, Christians throughout the world have had a tradition of “chalking doors” on the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord (January 5 this year), which celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the nations.

Inspired by the Magi, the family uses chalk to mark the lintel or doorpost with the following symbols:

- The numbers are for the year.
- The crosses symbolize Christ’s cross.
- The letters are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar,

Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means “May Christ bless this house.”

This offers everyone from the home a reminder that Christ has blessed the home and all those in it.

Here is a simple blessing from the U.S. bishops’ book *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*:

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sources: Deacon Eric Paige, usccb.org, vatican.va

SOCIAL JUSTICE & MISSIONS

Dear Friends of the Reel Justice Film Festival,
I am thrilled to announce that our lineup for the 2025 year is ready to share! Our films this year focus on hope and the personal stories that give voice to those who often go unheard. Through five enlightening films, we will explore themes of women’s empowerment, refugees, youth, Indigenous justice, and environmental care. We start the lineup on January 23, 2025 with the film *She Rises Up*, a revealing look at the power of women’s economic participation. The film follows radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are working to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities. Film Director, Maureen Castle Tusty and Executive Producer James Tusty will join us as guest speakers. In 2008, they founded Sky Films Inc. to produce documentary films that inform, uplift, and inspire.

Please view our full film lineup online at Reel Justice Film Festival to learn more about our films and register for events.

Wishing you a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

The Reel Justice
Film Festival
Committee
Gaiyle, Yola,
Emily, Daniela,
Rita, and Dominy





Register



FAMILY FOUNDATIONS INSTITUTE

MEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE

MEN OF INTEGRITY

STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 | 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
ALL SAINTS PARISH, STRATHROY



Featuring
JIM O'DAY
Executive Director of *Integrity Restored*, Jim O'Day is a dynamic speaker and leader with over 25 years of experience, dedicated to helping men live lives of virtue and faith.



INTEGRITY RESTORED

CONTACT
Pete Aarssen
petearssen5@gmail.com

\$40/Individual (\$25/Student) prices increase \$10 after January 15, 2025
REGISTER ONLINE AT FAMFI.CA/MOF

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The Inn of the Good Shepherd does a very good job of promoting the good works it does in the community and, as a result, receives very good community support. The SSVP serves all members of the Sarnia community and has some similar, but lesser known programs including the foodbank, a rent and utility assistance program, ready made food packages distributed to homeless persons, Coats for Kids, in conjunction with the K of C and it serves as the umbrella organization for several other charitable activities. It would be great to have some person(s) out promoting the SSVP in the larger community.

Volunteers can always be used doing various jobs at the Foodbank. At this time, the Irish Miracle collected almost 800 boxes of food that needs to be sorted by contents and date. An hour or two per week would be helpful. Five minutes of training is all it takes. Since there is no contact with the general public, no police check is required.

At the parish level, money is collected to provide food/gift cards to needy individuals at Christmas and any extra money is given to the Foodbank and Help Centre for its programs. Several parishes need persons to collect money at the door to the church after Mass and to be the Treasurer of SSVP for that parish. Volunteers from several parishes distributed food/gift cards to needy persons during December. Each of these activities is a small but worthwhile time commitment.

The SSVP operates from 4 buildings in Sarnia and 3 in the County. Repair and upkeep is always needed to keep the employees and customers safe and comfortable. It would be great to have a small team of handy persons to do small repairs and cleaning and to help oversee the maintenance of the buildings.

The SSVP employs about 30 men and women to staff its retail stores, warehouse and foodbank. Someone with an interest in retail would be helpful to assist in the stores for an hour or two each day to relieve the paid staff for lunch or breaks. The warehouse collects a large volume of items each day that need to be sorted for resale, recycling or disposal. Volunteers would be helpful.

Consider making it a New Year's resolution to become involved with the SSVP. I think you will find it to be interesting and rewarding.

Please contact the store personnel or the Foodbank and Help Centre at 228 Davis St.: 519-337-1058. Their hours are Tuesday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Thank you.

Peter Westfall,
Treasurer SSVP



Sarnia Hyundai and Subaru sponsored a food drive for the SSVP Foodbank .



St. Michael SSVP Team

SOCIETY OF SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The Spirit of Christmas and Giving truly came alive again this year!

On behalf of St. Michael SSVF Conference, I would like to thank all of you who donated so generously to support our Christmas Gift Card program for those in need. With your kindness, we were able to provide gift cards for 200 families again this year: gift cards for food and for gifts for the children.

Thank you also to those who keep our conference and those in need in your prayers. Not only at Christmas, but throughout the year.

God Bless

Linda Kensley

SM SSVF Conference - President

Queen of Peace SSVF

The Ladies Auxiliary of Queen of Peace would like to thank the parishioners of Queen of Peace who generously donated \$3680 to St. Vincent de Paul for the 2024 Christmas hampers.

Diane Wigchert

Queen of Peace, Ladies Auxiliary

Our Lady of Mercy, St. Joseph, St. Benedict SSVF

A special thanks goes out to all the St. Vincent de Paul volunteers who assisted in the Irish Miracle and to all those who donated food on December 7th to help stock the food bank shelves. Volunteers are needed at the food bank in the coming weeks to sort and date these donations. Please contact the food bank for more details: 519-337-1058.

We also want to thank everyone who donated funds so that we were able to purchase gift cards for children's gifts and grocery cards for Christmas dinner.

Thank you also to the Knights of Columbus Council #11174 and to the Catholic Women's League for their donations. We appreciate your ongoing support of the St. Vincent De Paul Society and its work in ministering to the poor.

Marian Blonde

SOCIAL CLUB

St. Joseph's Hospice is offering anyone living with a life-limiting illness to join us for an afternoon of connection and socializing.

Social Club offers support, conversation, legacy activities and so much more!

Join Us!

**Every Thursday
afternoon**

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



To register, or for more
information, please contact:

supportiveservices@sjhospice.ca
or call 519-337-0537.



JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

With Christmas now behind us, and the beginning of the New Year upon us, I pray for peace and joyful blessings to each of you in 2025.

I was once again blessed with the opportunity to visit many classes to share information about the Confirmation Preparation program being offered in the Spring of 2025 (registration is open - see the church bulletin or the Family of Parishes website), as well as information about Steubenville: A Catholic Youth Conference for students in high school (taking place in July), and conversations about Advent, what it means, and ways to celebrate it. I absolutely love hearing the thoughts and questions our youth have, leading us into further discussions!

The Advent season was busy with each of our schools taking part in having their classrooms' Advent wreaths blessed. Some of the schools participated in Mass, while others organized beautiful Liturgy services held in their school gym. All of the wreath blessing services were filled with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as each school community came together to celebrate the Advent season.

Some of the Elementary schools held a school-wide Christmas Dinner bringing the entire school together to break Bread and celebrate Christmas. These dinner events always make me emotional, seeing the love and joy that comes together in one space as we await the coming of Christmas (with excitement!). Each of the Elementary schools worked hard to bring their talents together to perform a Christmas Concert for their school community. The spirit of Christmas filled each building as we listened to the youthful voices sing many Christmas carols and songs!

The 41st Irish Miracle was successful for yet another year! On December 7th, the Irish Miracle city-wide food drive put on by the St. Patrick High School's Irish Miracle Committee to collect food and hygiene items filling our St. Vincent De Paul Food Bank collected 4500 bags full of goods to donate. Some members of the Knights of Columbus take on the challenge of cooking a pancake breakfast to feed all of the hungry workers - which is appreciated by all! Thank you to all who participated through prayer, donating non-perishable items and reusable bags, collecting, sorting, boxing, or delivering! This truly is a community-wide miraculous event, supporting the ever-growing needs around us, and representing our Family of Parishes as a committee member was an inspiring gift!

Holy Trinity's Grade ¾ class brought Christmas cheer to our parishioners of St. Benedict church on Thursday, December 12th. Once Mass ended, we all congregated in the parish hall to enjoy the delicious cookies and hot chocolate the students prepared, while playing board games together. The room was full of friendly competition, smiles, laughter, love, and so much excitement!

On December 11th, St. Patrick High School hosted the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament for our city and county high schools. This fun and competitive event brings together athletes who have special needs and supports their participation as they represent their school on the basketball court. Witnessing the encouragement and cheering from the spectators, showing the love and inclusivity of our school communities made it such a special, high energy and fun day! God was truly at work during the Advent season bringing so much Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to all of us as we celebrated together while awaiting the arrival of our Lord at Christmas.

Please look for my monthly updates and introduce yourself as I make my way to all of the churches and schools!

I wish you and your family many New Year's Blessings! Yours in Christ, Jenn

Jenn Stewart

Sacramental Catechist

JENN'S MONTHLY HAPPENINGS



Confirmation registration is open to students in grade 8.



Preparation sessions are on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Hall.

Mandatory Parent Information Meeting:

Wednesday, April 9th - 7pm

All Confirmation preparation sessions are mandatory for parents and candidates.

April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21

Practice Session

May 28th - Our Lady of Mercy Church - 7pm

Confirmation

Sunday, June 8th St. Michael Church - 2pm

Confirmation Sponsor:

Sponsors must be baptized and confirmed, practicing Roman Catholics, and at least 16 years old. It is best that sponsors have a good personal relationship with your child. Sponsors should be good examples to the candidates of the Catholic life. Sponsors should encourage active participation in the Sacraments and growth in virtue. Sponsors must attend the practice session on May 28th at Our Lady of Merch Church at 7pm. The sponsor and the candidate are required to have 4 Faith Conversations (information to follow). Parents may not be sponsors for their children.

To register, click on QR code or visit the Family of Parishes website <https://sarniacatholic.ca/reconcillation>.

The registrations deadline is February 14, 2025.

Please call Jenn Stewart, Sacramental Catechist, for more information:

jstewart@dol.ca; 519-336-2653





St. Clair Catholic
District School Board



KinderSTARt



KinderSTARt

Step 1: Register for Kindergarten Sept 2025

Step 2: Sign Up for your KinderSTARt Event

Register online for Kindergarten at register.sccdsb.net

Sign-up to attend your local KinderSTARt event [HERE](#) or with the QR code below. Drop-ins Welcome!

- Come to the school for a one hour visit to meet staff, engage in fun activities and learn more about kindergarten!
- Find out about community services and resources available to help support your child's positive transition to school.

Contact your local Catholic school with any questions.

For more information visit: kinderstart.sccdsb.net

It's time for your
little star to shine



Catholic School	KinderSTARt Date/Time
Gregory Hogan Catholic School Sarnia (French Immersion) 519-542-8190	January 14, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
St. Anne Catholic School Sarnia 519-542-2710	January 15, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
St. Michael Catholic School Bright's Grove 519-869-4204	January 16, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
St. Matthew Catholic School Sarnia 519-332-4300	January 21, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Sacred Heart Catholic School Sarnia 519-344-1601	January 22, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Holy Trinity Catholic School Sarnia 519-344-2110	January 23, 2025 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

BIBLE STUDY - JAMES: PEARLS FOR WISE LIVING

Looking for an anchor to hold you steady through the storms of life?

Want the secret to finding joy in the midst of trials?

Interested in learning to recognize the source of discord and the way to peace?

James, one of the most practical books of the Bible, is a collection of teachings on issues faced by ordinary Christians in everyday life. In “James: Pearls for Wise Living”, Jeff Cavins shows how the teachings of James speak to those of us who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and our faith. Meant to help a fledgling Church live out its faith in the face of persecution and a worldview opposed to the Gospel, the Book of James will help you discover wisdom you can apply to the present.

Beginning Wednesday, January 15, 2025 ~ St. Michael Parish Hall ~ 7pm to 9pm

Facilitators: Susan Kellett and Ed Seguin

or

Beginning Thursday, January 16, 2025 ~ St. Benedict Parish Hall ~ 1pm to 3pm



CALLING ALL PAST ALPHA PARTICIPANTS!

Did you benefit from your Alpha experience?

Would you like to ensure that others can have the same opportunity?

Team members are needed for the next Alpha.

Sign up on sarniacatholic.ca
or email: sarniacatholicalpha@gmail.com

**NEXT ALPHA SERIES STARTS
FEBRUARY 3, 2025**

Got?

Email: sarniacatholicalpha@gmail.com

The CHOSEN

Season 1



No matter where you are in your journey with Jesus Christ, this TV show is for you!

Imagine you could see the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people that walked on Earth with him - the disciples, Mary his mother, the Pharisees, the children, those he healed.

What would that look like? Now you can experience it!

The Chosen stays faithful to the Gospels and at the same time tells us a story that is in between the lines of scripture.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27 – MARCH 17

ST. BENEDICT PARISH HALL

9:45am–11:45am

**Register before January 20th by calling the
Family of Parishes office: 519-336-2653**

This series, along with discussion time and further reflection, has the potential to give you a better understanding of Jesus as God and man.



St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

January 2025 NEWSLETTER

All information about the St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus activities can be found on the **Sarnia Bluewater 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 **cmanathara** for a FREE one-year membership.

Your KofC Dues are Due

Just a reminder that our Council's Jan-Dec 2025 dues are now payable. Council dues for 2025 are: Regular Members \$45, Honourary Members (age 65 with 25 years of service) \$15 and Honourary Life Members (age 70 with 25 years of service) are not obligated to pay dues. Membership dues allow us to fund the costs to operate our council (including Supreme & State Per Capita payments, Insurances, supplies and other items. Dues can be paid in several ways:

- 1- pay at a meeting
- 2- mail cheque to FS Greg Pinder 44 David Blackwood Dr Sarnia Ont N7W 1C1
- 3- put cheque or cash in the collection basket at Mass with envelope marked KofC #11164 dues
- 4- E-transfer funds to **fs11164@ontariokofc.ca** (NOTE This is a different email address from previous years)

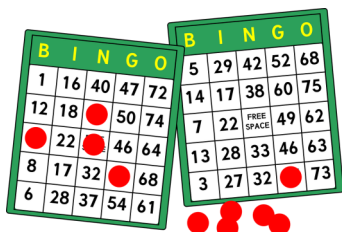
Any questions on payment or your membership status please contact the Financial Secretary Greg Pinder and thanks to the members who have already paid their 2025 dues.

Thank you and God Bless

Greg Pinder

FS St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council #11164

KofC Meat Bingos



Despite the loss of our good friend, John Ramsey, our KofC bingos will carry on. Come and join us every 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at OLM hall (corner of Christina St. & London Rd.). Bingo starts 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 Knight of Columbus charities.



St. Benedict's Knights of Columbus Council # 11164

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

SAVE THE DATE

The St. Benedict Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League are offering a 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, syrup, juice, tea and coffee.

COST: \$10 adults, \$5 child (12 & under), \$25 family of 4 (2 adult, 2 child+)

Cash or e-transfer please. **All proceeds to KofC Activities.**

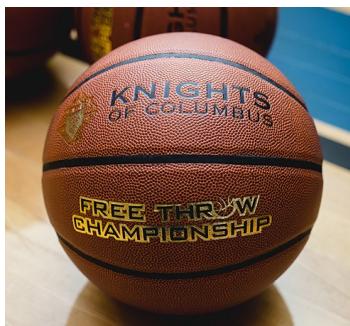


New Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent

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



Once again, the Knights of Columbus councils in Sarnia-Lambton will sponsor the annual basketball free throw competition at various schools in the area. The free throw packages of instructions and entry forms have been dropped off at the schools so they can select their potential winners who will move on to the Council level competition which will be held on **Saturday, January 25th**. Kids compete within their own gender and age group and progress from the Council, District and Region levels of competition. **Good luck to all our participants.**

St. Pat's Irish Miracle

The Knights of Columbus in Sarnia/Lambton once again assisted with the 41st Irish Miracle food drive. Members Knights sponsored and served a hot pancake & sausage breakfast to St. Patrick High School students and volunteers. Member Knights also assisted with the sorting of the food gathered by the students.

All food was donated to the St. Vincent de Paul food bank in Sarnia.



COFFEE SUNDAY

Many parishioners and visitors enjoy a cup of coffee and cookies after Mass each week thanks to the many volunteers who welcome everyone with a smile.

Thank you to all our volunteers who are helping to make our parishes welcoming communities where all who walk through our doors will encounter Christ through our faith and the little things we do to care for all.

Come for a cup of coffee, meet new friends and stay for the fellowship and conversation .



Christmas Social Thank You



On behalf of Sacred Heart Church, we would like to extend an heartfelt thank you to all who donated the delicious treats that were enjoyed by all at the recent Christmas Social on December 15th. Thank you for the music we enjoyed as we entered in and a very special thank you to Adetomiwa, Lyunola and Adetoun for sharing their beautiful voices with us. Congratulations to the MacAdam family on their award from the Knights of Columbus.



MERRY
Christmas

*From Ana Maria Moniz
and Jackie Chartrand*

COFFEE SUNDAY BRUNCH — ST. BENEDICT

Parishioners gathered Sunday brunch on Sunday, December 20th, following the 9am Mass. We enjoyed so many delicious goodies while visiting and celebrating our community spirit. Thank you Josephine for the special decorations that transformed our parish hall into a beautiful Christmas setting and thank you to the Knights who served up the coffee and lemonade and helped tidy up. A big thank you to all who joined in the celebration. We hope to see you at our Coffee Sunday in the New Year.



Line Dance
Our Lady of Mercy Hall
390 N. Christina St., Sarnia
Year 2025
Saturdays 1:00PM - 3:00PM
January 11
February 8
May 10
June 14
Thursdays 6:30-8:30PM
January 9 & 23
February 13 & 27
April 24
May 8 & 22
June 12 & 26
\$10 per 2 hour class
No commitment
Registration required
email at
bailaquita23@hotmail.com

MOVIE MATINEE
ORDINARY ANGELS
JANUARY 19, 2025
SUNDAY | 2:30PM- 4:30PM
SARNIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
Register: sarniacatholic.ca
or call the Parish Office
519-336-2653

RAYJON—GIFT OF HOPE

Give the Gift of Hope this Holiday Season with Rayjon



This holiday season, consider making a difference with Rayjon by supporting our communities in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Despite the challenges faced by communities in Cap Haïtien, St. Marc, and Barrio 41, there are bright sparks of hope—hope made possible through community-led development.

Your donation helps empower women entrepreneurs, support children's education, and provide legal advocacy for vulnerable families. By partnering with us, you're supporting programs like adult literacy training, microcredit loans, healthcare for malnourished children, and sustainable development projects that are transforming lives.

Holiday Gifts that Give Back

Looking for unique stocking stuffers? Our *vanilla* and *coffee* make the perfect gifts—and support our mission when you buy! These products are ideal for holiday baking or as thoughtful presents that share a story of resilience and hope.

How You Can Help (with the postal strike ongoing)

- **Donate online** at www.rayjon.org
- **By cheque:** Drop off at [Insert Address] or call 519-381-5259 to arrange a pick-up.
- **Order Vanilla or Coffee:** Call us at 519-381-5259 or send us an email at info@rayjon.org



Rayjon Share Care Pasta Fest is coming in the New Year!

Pick up only!!!

Only \$15 per meal includes meatballs, pasta and focaccia bread!

Time slots for pick up run 4pm-6:30pm (in 30 minute intervals)

Email Volunteer@rayjon.org to get your tickets and E Transfer info@rayjon.org (please include in your transfer a message saying pasta fest)

Hope to see you there!



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 \[Ukrainian\]](#)

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

OLM creche



THANKS TO

Chris Burley, Michael and Peter Stoesser, Nick Ritonja,
Norman, Salvatore Mammoliti, Sean Jesso, John Roman



Program Director Chris Burley is thankful for the continuing help from brother knights, no matter the weather or the situation. He is grateful to them, especially those who are not with us anymore.

"Join the Knights (Click here)"

For 'preferred council number' enter '1429'.

For 'member referral number' enter 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](#)



Annual Council Christmas Social



We were blessed that evening by the presence of 3 priests, widows of departed knights and including, the pleasantly unexpected, recently arrived, Fr Michael .

Thanks to those who joined us in creating a fun-filled, joyous evening of camaraderie, music and good food. Musical entertainment on guitar was provided by the oh-so-talented brother knights Michael Stoesser and Nick Rotonja.



COUNCIL NEWS

Council thanks Fr Jose, former **chaplain** and wishes him God's choicest blessings in his new ventures. At the same time, we are blessed by the acceptance of Fr Joseph as our new chaplain. His first task was to bless the creche at OLM, after our council meeting on Dec 03.

Basketball Freethrow: Sat, Jan 26 at Sacred Heart school gym. 8 schools participating.

Family of the Month: The Verhayden and Macadam families of Sacred Heart were recognized by the presentation of certificates and a special blessing by the attending priest.

Merchandise: Christmas cards, car magnets, T-Shirts, lawn signs and Nativity scenes were sold to parishioners at several venues including the OLM CWL Crafternoon Tea and the St Joe's Chilli challenge.

KCIC Poster Contest: Thanks to Lidia / Dino De Carolis and Peter Stoesser, submissions from the students at St. Annes, Sacred Heart and Gregory Hogan Catholic Schools will have been judged. The winners will receive a certificate and a small gift from council. Their winning entries go to the State level for competing with other jurisdictions.

Chili Challenge – St. Joseph's Church



We are deeply grateful to Charlene Hummel and the St. Joseph CWL for drinks and snacks and the wonderful group of volunteers. Thanks to their dedication and hard work, we had a fantastic turnout, resulting in a generous profit that will go a long way in funding our council's various programs.

Special thanks to Bob McPhee, who not only won the challenge **and** the 50-50 draw but also kindly donated back his winnings. God bless you, Bob!

Chili donors:

Mark Roehler, Cleve Shipman, Christine Monteiro, Michelle Pozdyk, Chris Burley / Salvatore, John Ramsey (RIP), Deana & Bob McPhee, Maria Leliveld / Janice Myint Swe, Peter Stoesser, Frank McGregor.

Volunteers

Jim/Maria Leliveld, Sean Jesso, Wilf Gray, Bill Nelson, Chris Burley.

COATS FOR KIDS: Council has purchased and donated 2 boxes of coats and 29 snowpants to Society of St Vincent de Paul. Brother Dino De Carolis and Lidia raised \$1,000 through the raffle of gift baskets. The Sacred Heart conference of SSVP also donated \$2,000.

Help the kids: use the QR Code on the right to donate through our partner Canada Helps, drop an envelope marked to "Coats for Kids 1429", e-Transfer to GK1429@ontarioKofC.ca.

Tax receipts will be provided.



[DONATE –](#)
[COATS FOR KIDS](#)

A Happy, Healthy, Safe and Joyful New Year to all